

**REPORT OF
THE FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

18 - 22 March 2019



THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Report of the Fifty-first Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center was prepared by Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, in collaboration with its Departments namely, the Training Department (TD), the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), the Aquaculture Department (AQD), the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD). The document is distributed to the SEAFDEC Member Countries and its Departments.

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CONTENTS

| | Paragraph No. |
|--|--------------------------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1-2 |
| INAUGURAL CEREMONY | 3-6 |
| I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS | |
| 1.1 Opening of the Meeting | 7 |
| 1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2019-2020 | 8 |
| 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangement for the Meeting | 9-10 |
| II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL | 11-22 |
| III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-FIRST MEETING | 23 |
| IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING | 24-25 |
| V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES | |
| 5.1 Issues on Combating IUU Fishing | |
| 5.1.1 ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain | 26-33 |
| 5.1.2 Regional Fishing Vessels Record | 34-44 |
| 5.1.3 ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme | 45-54 |
| 5.1.4 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of the Port State Measures in the ASEAN Region | 55-62 |
| 5.1.5 Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity | 63-68 |
| 5.2 Regional Cooperation to Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in the ASEAN Region | |
| 5.2.1 Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region | 69-78 |
| 5.2.2 Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture | 79-84 |
| 5.2.3 Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreak in Southeast Asia | 85-88 |
| 5.3 Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region | |
| 5.3.1 Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood | 89-91 |
| 5.4 Others | |
| 5.4.1 Way Forward for Fisheries Subsidies | 92-96 |
| VI. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS | 97-103 |
| VII. OTHER MATTERS | |
| 7.1 CITES-Related Issues | 104-108 |
| 7.2 Revision of the Resolution and Plan of Action after 2020 | 109-110 |
| 7.3 Japanese Trust Fund (2020-2024) | 111-113 |
| VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC | 114-119 |

| | Paragraph No. |
|--|--------------------------|
| IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER | |
| 9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels | 120-129 |
| 9.2 Collaborative Arrangements Between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations | 130-133 |
| 9.3 SEAFDEC Gender Strategy | 134-139 |
| 9.4 Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to Attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting | 140-143 |
| 9.5 Procedures for Endorsement of Policy Documents to the ASEAN Mechanism | 144-148 |
| 9.6 Future of RFPN after 2019 | 149-150 |
| 9.7 Other Matters | |
| 9.7.1 Formation of Singapore Food Agency | 151-152 |
| 9.7.2 Rules for Paperless SEAFDEC Meetings | 153-154 |
| 9.7.3 ASEAN Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in Partnership with the EU | 155 |
| X. FINANCIAL MATTERS | |
| 10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2017 | 156 |
| 10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2018, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2019 | 157-161 |
| 10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2020 | 162-163 |
| 10.4 Other Financial Matters | 164-165 |
| XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS | |
| 11.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report and Press Statement | 166-167 |
| 11.2 Date and Venue of the Fifty-second Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council | 168-169 |
| 11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government | 170 |
| XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING | 171-172 |

ANNEXES

| Annex | Page |
|---|------|
| 1. List of Participants | 29 |
| 2. Welcome Address by <i>Prof. Sjarief Widjaja</i> , Director General for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resource Development and SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director for Indonesia | 39 |
| 3. Welcome Remarks by <i>H.E. Eng Cheasan</i> , Director-General, Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2018-2019 | 41 |
| 4a. Welcome Statement by <i>Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak</i> , Vice Governor of East of Java Province, Indonesia | 43 |
| 4b. Opening Address by <i>Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak</i> , Vice Governor of East of Java Province, Indonesia on Behalf of Minister of Marine Affair and Fisheries | 45 |
| 5. Opening Remarks by <i>H.E. Eng Cheasan</i> , Director-General, Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2018-2019 | 47 |
| 6. Agenda | 49 |
| 7. Executive Summary of the Forty-first Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee | 51 |
| 8. Executive Summary of the Twenty-first Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) | 61 |
| 9. ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain | 65 |
| 10. Progress on Regional Fishing Vessels Record | 67 |
| 11. Continuing the Development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme | 73 |
| 12. Progress on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures | 77 |
| 13. Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) | 81 |
| 14. Promotion of the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region | 99 |
| 15. Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture | 109 |
| 16. Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreak in Southeast Asia | 113 |
| 17. Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region | 135 |
| 18. Way Forward for Fishery Subsidies | 143 |
| 19. Statement by <i>Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry</i> , Interim Executive Director, Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) | 145 |

| Annex | Page |
|---|-------------|
| 20. Statement by <i>Mr. Simon Nicol</i> , Regional Senior Fishery Officer for Asia and the Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) | 147 |
| 21. Statement by <i>Dr. Cherdsak Virapat</i> , Director General of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) | 149 |
| 22. Statement by <i>Dr. R. Craig Kirkpatrick</i> , Regional Wildlife Conservation Advisor, U.S. Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) | 151 |
| 23. CITES-Related Issues | 153 |
| 24. Revision of the Resolution and Plan of Action after 2020 | 165 |
| 25. Japanese Trust Fund (2020-2024) | 177 |
| 26. Operations of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels | 179 |
| 27. Collaborative Arrangements Between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations | 181 |
| 28. SEAFDEC Gender Strategy | 185 |
| 29. Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to Attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting | 189 |
| 30. Procedures for Endorsement of Policy Documents to the ASEAN Mechanism | 191 |
| 31. Future of Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) After 2019 | 201 |
| 32. Plan of Operation and Program of Work: Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) Programmes | 207 |
| 33. Rules for Paperless SEAFDEC Meetings | 209 |
| 34. SEAFDEC Abridged Consolidated Financial Statements as at December 31, 2017 and 2016 | 211 |
| 35. Unaudited Consolidated Financial Report for the Year 2017 | 217 |
| 36. Contributions Received from SEAFDEC Member Countries as Annual Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) in 2015-2019 | 221 |
| 37. Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2019 | 225 |
| 38. Press Statement | 229 |
| 39. Vote of Thanks to the Host Country by <i>Mr. Khin Maung Maw</i> , SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar | 231 |
| 40. Closing Remarks by <i>Dr. Kom Silapajarn</i> , Secretary-General of SEAFDEC | 233 |

**THE FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia
18 - 22 March 2019**



The SEAFDEC Council and Alternate Council Directors, together with the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General at the 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

REPORT OF THE FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

18 - 22 March 2019, Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifty-first Meeting of the Council (51CM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was convened in Surabaya City, East Java, Indonesia from 18 to 22 March 2019 at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam together with their respective delegations, as well as the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and the senior officials of SEAFDEC. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), and the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA). The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

3. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 18 March 2019, and was officiated by the Vice Governor of East Java, Indonesia, the *Honorable Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak* on behalf of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, *Ms. Susi Pudjiastuti*.
4. At the outset, the Director General for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources Development of MMAF and Alternate Council Director for Indonesia, *Prof. Sjarief Widjaja* on behalf of the Council Director for Indonesia and Secretary General of MMAF, *Mr. Nilanto Perbowo* welcomed the Council Directors and their delegations as well as other guests to Surabaya, Indonesia and also to the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. He commended SEAFDEC for assisting the ASEAN Member States in the sustainable management of fishery resources especially with regards to combating IUU fishing and promoting the conservation and management of tropical anguillid eel resources as Indonesia is one of the biggest eel producers in the world. In this connection, he requested the SEAFDEC Council Directors to endorse the Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia during this 51CM. He also highlighted on the need for capacity building of the stakeholders to address the wide gaps in the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture among the ASEAN Member States. Finally, he wished the participants a pleasant stay in Surabaya and invited them to explore the culture and crafts of Surabaya. His Welcome Statement appears as **Annex 2**.
5. The Director General of the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia *H.E. Eng Cheasan*, in his capacity as the Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for 2018-2019, also welcomed the participants to the Fifty-first SEAFDEC Council Meeting. He expressed the gratitude of the SEAFDEC Council to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality and arrangements for the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. He mentioned that the City of Surabaya is among the few places with emblems that depict aquatic species, and the City has two aquatic species in its emblem, which are sharks and crocodile. Such species are considered species of international concern, which would be one of the important issues to be discussed at this 51CM, especially in preparation for the CITES-CoP18 to be held in Sri Lanka in May 2019. He also recalled that during the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in November 2017, the Council adopted the SEAFDEC Strategies Towards 2030, and commended SEAFDEC for aligning its present and future programs and projects in accordance with the said Strategies. He also congratulated SEAFDEC for the significant progress it has made, especially in strengthening its cooperation and partnership with other international, regional, and national organizations and agencies, as well as non-member governments that share common interest towards the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. His Remarks appears as **Annex 3**.

6. The Vice Governor of East of Java Province, Indonesia, *Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak*, on behalf of *Ms. Susi Pudjiastuti*, welcomed the participants and guests of the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and to the City of Surabaya. He gave a brief historical background of East Java as well as its local fishing practices. He mentioned that Indonesia acknowledges the important role of SEAFDEC particularly in assisting the Member Countries in promoting sustainable fisheries and conservation of marine resources, which are important for Indonesia in achieving the SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Among others, he mentioned the several efforts that Indonesia is doing to achieve the SDG 14, such as putting as national priority activities to combat IUU fishing, establishing 20 million ha of marine protected areas, and reducing about 70 % of marine plastic debris by 2025. Because of these efforts, the fish stock in the waters of Indonesia has improved and the country is now leading the fisheries trade balance among the ASEAN Member States. He emphasized that regional cooperation through SEAFDEC mechanism is important and expressed the hope that this Meeting would create concrete actions to protect the fishery resources and make the ocean that the countries share much healthier. Lastly, he invited the participants to enjoy their short stay in Surabaya and experience the local culture through its local cuisine and products, and then declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 4a** and **Annex 4b**.

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Opening of the Meeting

7. The Director General of the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for 2018-2019, *H.E. Eng Cheasan* welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He reiterated his gratitude to the SEAFDEC Council Directors as well as to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for the support extended to him during his term as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council. While expressing the hope that the same support could also be granted to the incoming Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, he also encouraged the Council Directors to continue their support to SEAFDEC in the years ahead for the sustainability of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 5**.

1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2019-2020

8. The Director General for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources Development of MMAF, *Prof. Sjarief Widjaja* and the current Alternate Council Director for Indonesia on behalf of the Council Director for Indonesia, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2019-2020, in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC. While expressing his gratitude to all the Council Directors for the trust given him to serve as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, he also sought the continued support of the Council Directors as well as those from the regional organizations during his term of duty as the Chairperson.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangement for the Meeting

9. In response to the question raised by the Council Director for Japan about the addition of the fishery subsidies issue the later version of the Agenda of the 51CM, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat explained that it has become necessary to include the Way Forward for Fishery Subsidies and to revise the Agenda of the 51CM, considering that the Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-related Issues in June 2018 requested SEAFDEC “to facilitate the identification of focal points as well as development of ASEAN common position on fishery subsidies for adoption by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) to be reflected at the WTO forum upon consideration by the SEAFDEC Council.”

10. The Council took note of the clarification made by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and adopted the Agenda, which appears as **Annex 6**.

II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

11. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* congratulated the Council Director for Indonesia, represented at this 51CM by *Prof. Sjarief Widjaya* on behalf of *Mr. Nilanto Perbowo*, for having been elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2019-2020. He expressed the appreciation to *H.E. Eng Cheasan*, the Council Director for Cambodia for serving as the Chairperson of the Council during 2018-2019, and for his efforts in guiding SEAFDEC towards the implementation of programs that cater to the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries.

12. As his term of office with SEAFDEC is going to be completed in September 2019, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* also thanked the SEAFDEC Council Directors for their support during his term as the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. He then presented to the Council the Draft SEAFDEC Annual Report for 2018, focusing on the highlights of the activities and major achievements in 2018, in accordance with the SEAFDEC Strategies Towards 2030 adopted by the SEAFDEC Council during its Special Meeting in 2017.

13. During the discussion, the Council Director for Indonesia expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing significant programs and activities in 2018. He specifically urged SEAFDEC to continue providing capacity building activities to enhance the resilience of coastal communities in pursuing sustainable livelihoods and management of the resources. In this regard, the Council was informed that SEAFDEC is developing the second phase of the project “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management” for possible support by potential donors.

14. While expressing the appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to the participants in the 51CM, the Council Director for Thailand congratulated SEAFDEC for its achievements and outputs from the programs and projects implemented in 2018 that resulted in the improvement of every aspect in the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture of the region. He also commended the Training Department for implementing the Human Resources Development for Sustainable Fisheries through the conduct of the Training Course on Sustainable Fisheries Management, as well as for conducting on-site training courses on the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), that enhanced the understanding of the stakeholders not only on the concept of sustainable fisheries management, but also on the significance of cooperation among relevant agencies and stakeholders. He also asked SEAFDEC for its continued support especially in the conduct of training courses on EAFM for concerned officers of Thailand in the future. In this connection, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC mentioned that the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will continue to assist SEAFDEC in updating the curriculum and materials of the EAFM training course in order to enhance its promotion in the ASEAN Member States (AMSs).

15. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for providing detailed information on the projects and activities it had implemented in 2018, and looked forward to having continued success in the implementation of projects in the future in close cooperation with the Member Countries.

16. While expressing gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the 51CM, the Council Director for the Philippines commended SEAFDEC for the accomplishments of its programs and projects implemented in 2018. He cited that the Philippines has significantly benefitted from the several projects of SEAFDEC, and asked SEAFDEC to document clearly the outcomes of these projects for the benefit of the fisheries sector of the Member Countries. In this regard, the Secretary-General reiterated that several projects implemented by SEAFDEC would be completed in 2019, and the lessons learnt from the implementation of these projects would be summarized and properly documented, and would be subsequently shared with the Member Countries.

17. The Council Director for Lao PDR expressed the appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to the participants of the 51CM. He also congratulated SEAFDEC for its achievements and outputs in 2018, and cited that the activities supported by SEAFDEC in 2018 had contributed to the development of the country’s National Strategies on Sustainable Fisheries Development

that includes an objective towards attaining improved livelihood of fishers. He then expressed the commitment of Lao PDR to continue working closely with SEAFDEC in the future.

18. While also expressing gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to the participants in the 51CM, the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam congratulated SEAFDEC for the achievements from its projects in 2018 aimed towards sustainable fisheries and enhanced community benefits. She added that specifically on aquaculture, SEAFDEC should consider the possibility of expanding future collaboration and cooperation not only through the national agencies but also with the research institutes.

19. The Council Director for Malaysia expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for its achievements and outputs in 2018, and the willingness of Malaysia to collaborate closely with SEAFDEC, especially in the implementation of programs and projects in the future.

20. While thanking the Government of Indonesia for hosting the 51CM, the Council Director for Japan also congratulated SEAFDEC for the programs and activities implemented in 2018, and suggested that an amendment should be made to the SEAFDEC Annual Report, especially on the “Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eels” to reflect the fact that *Anguilla japonica* has not been listed in the CITES Appendices.

21. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for its achievements from the programs and activities implemented in 2018, the Council Director for Viet Nam suggested that SEAFDEC should consider highlighting some successes from its projects in its future annual reports. He also suggested that SEAFDEC could enhance the dissemination of the results and lessons learnt from its projects in the future through the social media.

22. After providing their views and comments on the activities of SEAFDEC, the Council approved the Draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2018 for publication and dissemination to the Member Countries, relevant organizations and the public, taking into consideration the comments and suggestions made at this 51CM. Moreover, SEAFDEC should henceforth consider incorporating the comments made at this 51CM during the planning and implementation of SEAFDEC programs and activities in the future.

III. NOTES OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-FIRST MEETING

23. The Council took note of the results of the Forty-first Meeting of the Program Committee (41PCM) of SEAFDEC (**Annex 7**) convened on 5-7 November 2018 in Langkawi, Malaysia as presented by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Program Committee. After the discussion, the Council approved the progress of the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2018 and endorsed the proposed programs for 2019, as well as the recommendations of the SEAFDEC Program Committee.

IV. NOTES OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

24. After taking into consideration the recommendations made during the Twenty-first Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (21FCG/ASSP) on 8-9 November 2018 in Langkawi, Malaysia (**Annex 8**) as presented by the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand and SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director for Thailand, *Mr. Bunchong Chumongsittathum* on behalf of the ASEAN Co-chair for the 21FCG/ASSP Meeting, the Council endorsed the Report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the FCG/ASSP.

25. In relation to the Report of the 21FCG/ASSP, the Council Director for Viet Nam clarified that whether or not fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database could be considered as illegal fishing vessels is subject to the protocol for submission of data from countries to the RFVR Database. In this regard, the protocol for confirming whether or not fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database are

illegal fishing vessels, should therefore be considered in the future development of the RFVR. In this connection, the Council Director for Japan recalled that during the discussion on this issue at the Fiftieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, Japan made a suggestion on how to deal with fishing vessels not registered in the RFVR Database, which is for SEAFDEC to revise the Protocol. Meanwhile, the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam proposed that in the Protocol, the statement “whether or not fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database could be considered as illegal fishing vessels” should be clarified to be able to confirm whether the fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database are illegal or not. The 51CM confirmed that it would come back to this issue under the relevant agenda.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

5.1 Issues on Combating IUU Fishing

5.1.1 ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain

26. The Council was informed on the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain (**Annex 9**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). Specifically, the Council took note of the Interim Report on the Status of Implementation of the Regional Guidelines by the respective AMSs.

27. The Council Director for Indonesia indicated that although the self-evaluation on the implementation of the Guidelines by the respective AMSs is a good starting point, MFRDMD should identify the need of a particular AMS in the implementation of the Guidelines and provide training and other capacity building as necessary. Furthermore, as the Guidelines which has already been endorsed by AMAF provides a comprehensive tool to exclude IUU products from the supply chain, this should be promoted at the international fora such as those of FAO to enhance its recognition by a wider audience. He shared the information on the progress made by Indonesia in implementing a traceability system for fish and fishery products, and that Indonesia has already received the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.

28. An observation was made on the Interim Report indicating that almost all AMSs have attained more than 90% achievement rating for implementing the Guidelines. In this regard, the Council suggested that the comments previously made during the 21FCG/ASSP on the transparency of the self-evaluation process and whether the evaluation reflects the achievement of the objectives of the Guidelines, should be considered.

29. The Council Director for Thailand expressed the view that the questionnaire used for the self-evaluation also includes some questions that are not relevant to the country’s progress and achievements in combating IUU fishing, particularly the question regarding request for advice or assistance from SEAFDEC (*i.e.* 1.3.3c, 2.1b). He therefore requested that MFRDMD should consider separating the scores from these questions in order that the results from the questionnaire survey would reflect the real achievement of the implementation of the Guidelines.

30. While congratulating SEAFDEC for conducting the survey as it provided the information on the efforts made by the AMSs to ensure that their respective fish and fishery products are not derived from IUU fishing activities, the Council Director for Viet Nam made an observation that only some AMSs could fulfill the legal frameworks for the implementation of the Guidelines. In this connection, further steps should be made by MFRDMD to promote the Guidelines in order that the entry of IUU products into the supply chain could be prevented through, for example, the development of a “blacklist” of fishing vessels that includes either national vessels or those from other AMSs. Moreover, the AMSs should also designate their respective focal points to update the blacklist of fishing vessels to improve the implementation of the Guidelines in the future.

31. In addressing the concerns of the Council, the representative from MFRDMD explained that although the Guidelines is voluntary in nature, implementation of market measures are very important to

ensure that fish and fishery products from the AMSs could be traded in the international market, and several aspects in the Guidelines point to the compliance with market measures, *e.g.* vessel registration, traceability system. He added that although the current phase of the promotion of the Guidelines does not intend to provide capacity building for AMSs, this could be taken into account in the future while the engagement of external evaluators could also be considered. Furthermore, he also supported the suggestion on sharing of information on blacklisted fishing vessels among the AMSs to combat IUU fishing in the region.

32. While noting the suggestion to develop the “blacklist” vessels, the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam informed the Council that there had been incidents of foreign vessels encroaching in their waters but such vessels were not apprehended but some could be identified. In this regard, the term “watch list” could be more appropriate. She added that in the Interim Report, a disclaimer should clearly indicate the fact that Brunei Darussalam was not included in the self-evaluation. The representative from MFRDMD clarified that the self-evaluation did not include Brunei Darussalam and Singapore due to budgetary constraints.

33. The Council Director for Japan shared the same concern on the process of the self-evaluation and suggested that MFRDMD should consider finding alternative methods by conducting similar surveys every few years to monitor the progress made by each AMS in the implementation of the Guidelines. On the encroachment of foreign vessels in Brunei Darussalam waters, he suggested that if the flag is known, Brunei Darussalam should contact the flag State of such vessels to confirm whether or not such vessels are IUU fishing vessels, while the watch list would be useful if the name of the vessels is identified even if the flag is unknown.

5.1.2 Regional Fishing Vessels Record

34. The Council took note of the progress made by SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) on the promotion of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for vessels 24 meters in length and over (**Annex 10**) as presented by the representative from TD. Specifically, the Council was informed on the progress of the discussion and future plans on the development of RFVR for vessels less than 24 meters in length. The Council also considered and provided comments on the draft “Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System by non-AMS” which was prepared by the SEAFDEC Secretariat after accommodating the comments of the Council sought through *ad referendum* circulation for endorsement.

35. With regards to the Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System, the Council Director for Singapore suggested that in the preparation of the Letter of Agreement (LOA) between non-AMSs and SEAFDEC, the flexibility for SEAFDEC to make changes to the Protocol and review the LOA when necessary, should be explicitly specified.

36. While taking note of the progress of promoting the utilization of the RFVR Database, the Council Director for Malaysia suggested that the AMSs should regularly provide their respective updated data to the RFVR Database. With regards to the proposed development of the RFVR for vessels less than 24 meters in length, he suggested that the current RFVR should be fully utilized instead, and then supported the approval of the Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System.

37. The Council Director for Viet Nam mentioned that the country is in the process of completing its national database of fishing fleets by the third quarter of 2019, and thus would only be able to provide data for the RFVR 24 meters in length and over by that time. While expressing support to the development of RFVR less than 24 meters in length, he mentioned that the national database is being developed for vessels 15-24 meters in length, and from such database the possibility of extracting information on vessels 18-24 meters in length as required by SEAFDEC, could be considered. On the draft Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System, which could be changed over time, he suggested that at this stage the RFVR Database should only serve as reference for verification of vessel’s information. However, if a particular vessel is not included in the RFVR Database, the port State should communicate directly with flag State to verify the legal status of such vessel.

38. While supporting the Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System by Non-AMSs, the Council Director for Indonesia informed the Council that Indonesia has already provided updated data for the RFVR Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over in March 2019, and suggested that for the time being SEAFDEC should consider enhancing the use of the RFVR Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over instead of expanding the RFVR to also cover vessels less than 24 meters in length.

39. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Council that Myanmar is planning to submit the RFVR data to SEAFDEC in April 2019. At present, the data is being prepared to comply with the requirements of the eACDS, the Fisheries Information System (FIS), and the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). With regards to the “Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System by Non-AMSs,” he informed the Council that Myanmar would concur with the decision of the other AMSs on this matter.

40. While supporting the promotion of the RFVR Database, the Council Director for Thailand expressed the concern that the data on the number of fishing vessels provided by the AMSs cover only two to three years, which is not sufficient enough to conclude whether the trend of fishing vessels has really increased or decreased. As for the decreased number of fishing vessels of Thailand in the RFVR Database, he explained that this is due to the issuance of the new Royal Ordinance on Fisheries (2015) with the Fisheries Management Plan (2015-2020) where the number fishing efforts have been adjusted to match with the available resources. While also observing the delay in providing data by several AMSs in the RFVR Database, he suggested that SEAFDEC should work closely with the AMSs to ensure that the data in the RFVR Database is regularly updated.

41. In the case of the delayed submission of the data from the Philippines, the Council Director for the Philippines explained that the Philippines is still in the process of reviewing and updating its fishing vessels database, and that the required data would be submitted to SEAFDEC when such process is completed.

42. The Council Director for Japan reiterated that in dealing with vessels that are not included in the RFVR, the port State should contact the flag State first to obtain the concerned vessel’s status, as suggested by the Council Director for Viet Nam. With regards to the sharing of information from the RFVR Database with non-AMSs, he expressed the concern that not all AMSs have submitted the updated information in the RFVR Database system and thus, such data is not appropriate to be shared. He then encouraged all AMSs to submit their updated data to SEAFDEC based on the agreed timeline.

43. On the development of a “blacklist” of fishing vessels and on the difficulties encountered by Brunei Darussalam in determining vessels to be considered in the blacklist, the Council Director for the Philippines concurred with the suggestion of the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam that a “watch list” should be developed instead, to serve as warning for fishing vessels that are still operating unsustainable fishing practices.

44. In concluding the discussion, the Secretary-General confirmed that the current RFVR Database could serve as reference for data verification, and supported the proposed development of a “watch list” of IUU fishing vessels. On the Protocol for Accessing of the RFVR Database, he supported the suggestion that sharing of database should be postponed until all AMSs could provide updated data. Considering that most of transshipment vessels within the Southeast Asian waters are mostly less than 24 meters in length, he suggested that the expansion of the RFVR Database to also cover vessels less than 24 meters in length should be considered to enhance the utilization of the RFVR Database in the future.

5.1.3 ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme

45. The Council took note of the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) for marine capture fisheries (**Annex 11**), particularly the pilot testing of the electronic system of the ACDS (eACDS) in Brunei Darussalam, and the expansion of the pilot sites to Myanmar, Malaysia and Viet Nam, as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

46. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam expressed the gratitude to TD for the development of eACDS as well as to SEAFDEC for making Brunei Darussalam as a pilot site, and to the Government

of Japan for the support extended to SEAFDEC that facilitated the pilot testing of the eACDS in Brunei Darussalam.

47. While expressing the appreciation to TD for delivering a comprehensive report, the Council Director for Indonesia also expressed the country's support to the expansion of the pilot testing of the eACDS to other AMSs to promote the traceability of fish and fishery products and combat IUU fishing in the region.

48. The Council Director for the Philippines sought clarification and raised concern on the accuracy of information on the differences between the electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability System (eCDTS) developed with support from USAID Oceans and the eACDS developed with support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) and SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. In this connection, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat clarified that while the eACDS supports the traceability of fish and fishery products throughout the supply chain, the eCDTS focuses on particular aspect of the process such as the processors. Nevertheless, the Council Director for the Philippines suggested that SEAFDEC should seek the clarification and confirmation from the USAID Oceans on this aspect.

49. The Council Director for Viet Nam expressed the appreciation to the JTF and the USAID Oceans for supporting the expansion of pilot site in Viet Nam, and added that through its implementation in Viet Nam, experiences on the eACDS implementation could be gained and the connection among the various pilot sites in the region could be explored to maximize the implementation of the eACDS. Moreover, since Viet Nam has already conducted a gap analysis of its legal framework based on the traceability system available in the country, these could be used to determine whether the eCDTS could fulfill any gaps in the traceability system. In addition, Viet Nam is planning to also obtain support from the JTF and USAID Oceans, *i.e.* for the JTF to support the critical point of traceability system from harvest to market; and from USAID Oceans on the technology that supports the traceability system.

50. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Council that regarding the expansion of eACDS pilot site in Myanmar, two landing sites had been selected, and the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar has been trying to establish the electronic reporting system that links with its VMS. He added that Myanmar would support the use of eACDS to combat IUU fishing and enhance intra-regional and international trade in fish and fishery products, as well as facilitate regional as well as international information sharing. As for the eCDTS, he expressed the concern that countries that are not involved as pilot sites such as Myanmar, are only attending workshops occasionally thus, are not able to fully understand the operationalization of the system.

51. The Council Director for Malaysia commended SEAFDEC for the progress made in the development of eACDS, and looked forward to discussing with SEAFDEC on 22-26 April 2019, the details of pilot test planning for the system in Malaysia.

52. The Council Director for Japan inquired whether the eACDS could help the AMSs in fulfilling the different requirements for exporting fish and fishery products to EU and the US. In response, the Deputy Secretary-General informed the Council that the eACDS comprises key data elements that include the necessary requirements to export to EU and the US market, as well as those of the other importing markets. The Secretary-General added that the import regulations and requirements of importing countries have been considered during the development of the ACDS.

53. Nevertheless, the Council Director for Viet Nam pointed out that Viet Nam has identified the critical points for product traceability, and if these could be controlled in a transparent manner, it means that the traceability system of the country could be reliable. Although both the US Presidential Task Force on Combating IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud, and the EU Regulation No. 1005/2008 aim to ensure product traceability, their manners of controlling IUU fishing activities are different. While the US Regulation puts control on the exporters directly, the EU Regulation imposes control through the exporting government authorities.

54. The Council Director for Singapore viewed that the importance of eACDS should not only be to promote traceability within the country, but also traceability across the value chain. She therefore

suggested that SEAFDEC should consider exploring the possibility of connecting the systems of the AMSs to provide for exchange of e-certificates for trade purposes.

5.1.4 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of Port State Measures in the ASEAN Region

55. The Council took note of the progress of the promotion of the Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of the Port State Measures (PSM) in the ASEAN region (**Annex 12**) as presented by the representative from TD.

56. In promoting the implementation of PSM, the Council Director for Malaysia encouraged SEAFDEC to continue collaborating with partners in organizing human resource capacity building activities for port inspectors to support the implementation of the PSM by the AMSs.

57. Regarding the planned “Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Implementation for Inspectors” scheduled on 22-26 July 2019, the Council Director for Indonesia suggested that SEAFDEC should seek assistance from FAO and relevant RFMOs to provide the resource persons for this training. He also proposed that the training could be conducted in Indonesia.

58. While informing the Council that Viet Nam has recently become a Party to the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) on 3 January 2019 and that the country’s national legal frameworks had been revised to support the implementation of the provisions in the PSMA, the Council Director for Viet Nam requested SEAFDEC to consider supporting the AMSs for implementing the PSMA by providing knowledge on the procedures and protocols for port inspection, as well as for conducting their respective needs assessment.

59. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Council that with support from FAO, a workshop to review the country’s compliance with the provisions of the PSMA has been organized in Myanmar to formulate the national strategies and action plans with the aim of fulfilling the requirements of the PSMA and related international instruments. He also requested SEAFDEC to consider providing capacity building activities to Myanmar officers in support of the implementation of PSM.

60. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for supporting the capacity building activities towards the implementation of PSM in the region, the Council Director for Thailand expressed the full support of Thailand to the implementation of PSM as this is an important tool to effectively combat IUU fishing. He added that Thailand has currently designated 25 ports along its coastal provinces which are tasked to coordinate with other countries, whether these countries are Parties or non-Parties to the PSMA, in support of the implementation of PSM. He also requested SEAFDEC to encourage the Member Countries to share their respective PSM information to the FAO Port-Lex Database and to scale up the utilization of the Database.

61. Regarding the suggestion made by the Council Director for Japan during the 50th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for SEAFDEC to tap the expertise of other organizations, *e.g.* the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), in conducting training courses on PSM, the Council Director for Indonesia concurred with such suggestion. In this connection, the Council Director for Japan requested SEAFDEC to follow up on the said suggestion specifically in facilitating information exchange among the AMSs on PSM implementation and strengthening the collaboration among the AMSs in combating IUU fishing in the region. Such collaboration could be mobilized in order that in cases where a particular AMS spots a fishing vessel that is possibly operating illegally or violates sustainable fishing practices, the information could be relayed to the other AMSs for their appropriate action.

62. In addressing the concerns raised by the Council Directors, the Secretary-General mentioned that collaboration with other organizations, *e.g.* USAID, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and FAO, had been enhanced. He added that SEAFDEC had discussed with IOTC during the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in May 2018 on the possible cooperation including the dispatch of resource person(s) to SEAFDEC to support the PSM implementation by the AMSs. He also cited that the training conducted by TD in January 2018 was on general PSM implementation, while the training to be

conducted in 2019 would be for port inspectors, and future training sessions could be on other specific topics, *e.g.* risk analysis. SEAFDEC would also convey the suggestion of the Council for the Member Countries to share their PSM information with the Port-Lex Database. In addition, the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC also informed the Council that SEAFDEC had organized sub-regional dialogues on MCS network in 2018 for strengthening the coordination among the concerned AMSs including PSM implementation.

5.1.5 Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

63. The Council took note of the progress made by SEAFDEC in the compilation of feedbacks from the AMSs, namely: Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) in their respective countries, as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat (**Annex 13**). The Council was also informed about the proposed two-year project “Implementation and Assessment of Fishing Capacity and Zoning System for Southeast Asia” by MFRDMD for funding support from the ASEAN dialogue partners, and that such Project would enhance the future activities of SEAFDEC in relation to the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity.

64. The Council Director for Malaysia explained that during the last Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) in 2018, the representative from Malaysia informed the AFCF Meeting regarding the proposed project jointly developed with MFRDMD with funding support from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The said proposal had already been submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat and is being evaluated by JAIF, and subsequently the proposal would be circulated by the ASEAN Secretariat to all AMSs for comments and scrutiny.

65. The Chief of MFRDMD provided additional information on how the new proposal would support the RPOA-Capacity, as the new project focuses mainly in assessing the level of fishing capacity. He then sought the cooperation of the AMSs to provide data on catch and effort which are necessary for the analysis and identification of the appropriate level of fishing capacity of the AMSs.

66. The Council Director for Indonesia requested SEAFDEC to consider supporting the AMSs in their efforts to enhance the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity. He recalled the discussion during the 41PCM on the proposed establishment of the RPOA-Capacity Secretariat and sought for more detailed information on the progress of such proposal as well as the funding source to support its operation.

67. The Council Director for Thailand indicated that Thailand has no objection on the proposed establishment of the RPOA-Capacity Secretariat. However, he raised the concern on the need for more detailed information, especially on the main objectives of such proposal. He therefore requested SEAFDEC to provide such information, including the structure and key functions of such Secretariat, as well as the procedures on how the AMSs could appropriately support the implementation of this mechanism.

68. In response, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC explained that the establishment of the RPOA-Capacity Secretariat was only a suggestion during the 41PCM. However, through the new project proposed by MFRDMD, clearer plans could be developed on how SEAFDEC would support the AMSs in the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity in the future.

5.2 Regional Cooperation to Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in the ASEAN Region

5.2.1 Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region

69. The Council took note of the progress of implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas in the region, particularly the results of 2018 stock and risk assessments of the Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and king mackerel (*S. guttatus*) in the Pacific Ocean and in the Indian Ocean of the Southeast Asian region, as well as the management recommendations made by the Scientific Working Group for Neritic Tunas (SWG-Neritic Tunas) for these two species, as presented by the

representative from MFRDMD (**Annex 14**). In addition, the Council was also informed on the results of the DNA study on the stock structure of longtail tuna.

70. While commending MFRDMD for its efforts in pursuing the stock assessment of the Spanish and king mackerels, the Council Director for Indonesia suggested that MFRDMD should continue to conduct the stock assessment of other species of neritic tunas. However, since the conduct of stock assessment requires long-term CPUE data, he also suggested that data collection schemes of the countries on these species should be enhanced. Furthermore, while he expressed concern on the recommendations to reduce the catch of the Spanish mackerel and increase the catch of the king mackerel in Pacific and Indian Oceans, he suggested that specific working group should be established to consider the results and conclusion of the stock and risks assessments of these two species in order to come up with appropriate management recommendations.

71. On the previous suggestion made by the Council during its 50th Meeting for the possibility of expanding the work of the SWG-Neritic Tunas to also cover stock assessment of other small pelagic species such as anchovies, sardines and scads, the Council Director for Indonesia reiterated his view that the SWG-Neritic Tunas should mainly focus on neritic tuna species rather than on the other small pelagic species considering that these latter species are local stocks and could be managed by the countries.

72. The Council Director for the Philippines recognized the importance of the results of stock and risk assessments of Spanish and king mackerels. However, he also pointed out that these species are bycatch from multi-species fisheries. He therefore suggested that the activities of the SWG-Neritic Tunas should also focus on stock assessment of target neritic tuna species in order to come up with practical and effective management measures that would ensure the sustainable utilization of the species.

73. The Council Director for Thailand expressed the appreciation to MFRDMD for the conduct of stock assessment and that Thailand has no objection on the results of such stock assessment. He also requested SEAFDEC to encourage the AMSs to ensure the sustainable utilization of neritic tuna species especially longtail tuna which is used as raw materials by the fish processing industry in many countries. He also agreed with the proposal to conduct a stock structure study on neritic tunas using microsatellite DNA.

74. The Council Director for Malaysia supported the proposed expansion of the SWG-Neritic Tunas to cover stock assessment of other neritic tuna species, as well as the conduct of future genetic study by MFRDMD. In response, the Chief of MFRDMD explained that MFRDMD is now using microsatellite DNA study to obtain information on the stock structure of longtail tuna.

75. The Council Director for Japan reiterated the concern on the possible duplication of the works of SEAFDEC and RFMOs, especially with IOTC, which has the mandate to manage neritic tunas stocks, although no management measures have been made in place. He also encouraged Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia as Parties to the IOTC, to propose to IOTC that the Spanish and the king mackerels which are local stocks should be managed by the countries if there are local stocks migrating in this area. He also requested the AMSs to seriously consider putting into practice the recommendations of the SWG-Neritic Tunas toward the sustainable utilization of the said neritic tuna resources.

76. The Deputy Chief of MFRDMD pointed out that although not an RFMO, SEAFDEC promotes sustainable management of neritic tunas and promotes capacity building on stock and risk assessments for the Southeast Asian region because neritic tunas provide important protein sources for peoples in the region. It is for this reason that SEAFDEC monitors the stock status of both species in Southeast Asia, especially that some countries in the region are Parties to some RFMOs *e.g.* IOTC, as this would facilitate understanding of the strength of the harvest level for neritic tuna resources in the region. SEAFDEC also wishes to confirm that biological information is necessary for the assessments and management of stocks which is insufficient in the Southeast Asian region as well as in other several regions of relevant RFMOs, thus the collection and arrangement of those data is necessary. The exchange of biological information such as genetics, growth and spawning of neritic tuna stocks between the Southeast Asian region and the regions of relevant RFMOs will help further the development of assessments and management of the stocks from these regions.

77. With regards to the concerns raised on the utilization of the results of the stock and risk assessments of the Spanish mackerel and the Indo-Pacific king mackerel, the Chief of MFRDMD stated that currently, there are not much studies on neritic tunas undertaken by IOTC. In this connection, he agreed with previous suggestions that the results of the stock and risk assessments of neritic tunas undertaken by the SWG-Neritic Tunas should be shared with concerned RFMOs, *e.g.* IOTC, for appropriate action.

78. Furthermore, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General also mentioned that initial discussions had already been made by SEAFDEC with the IOTC on the future sharing of the results of the stock and risk assessment of neritic tunas. He also encouraged the AMSs to consider utilizing the results of the assessments conducted by the SWG-Neritic Tunas as basis to properly manage neritic tunas in their respective waters.

5.2.2 Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture

79. The Council took note of the progress of implementation of the JAIF-supported project “Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture,” and the adopted “Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia” (**Annex 15**), as presented by the Chief of SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD).

80. While expressing support to the Policy Guidelines developed by IFRDMD, the Council Director for Indonesia mentioned that in 2019-2020, Indonesia would collaborate with FAO to develop the electronic database for tropical anguillid eels, establish the country’s NPOA for eel species, and conduct training of trainers for the local communities on the aquaculture of eels. He added that some local communities have already been practicing restocking of tropical anguillid eels. He then requested SEAFDEC to consider developing a digital map of the distribution of anguillid eels in Southeast Asia as well the methodologies for stock assessment and restocking of eels, and transferring the technology for breeding and feed development of anguillid eels culture.

81. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed the gratitude to SEAFDEC for extending support to AMSs from 2017 to 2019 for improving the collection of statistics and data to determine the status of tropical anguillid eels in the AMSs, and promoting the aquaculture of eel species. He informed the Meeting that Myanmar has only one tropical anguillid eel farm which focuses on eel fattening, and that the country also has long coastline that embraces rich habitat for juveniles of tropical anguillid eels. He therefore requested SEAFDEC through the JAIF-supported project to consider providing technical support for the development of the aquaculture of tropical anguillid eels in Myanmar, and that the format for fisheries data collection should be provided by SEAFDEC to Myanmar. He also suggested that SEAFDEC should consider conducting awareness training courses in the AMSs to support the establishment of the catch statistics on anguillid eels.

82. The Chief of IFRDMD informed the Council that IFRDMD is formulating a new project which aims to develop the method for stock assessment of anguillid eels including standardized CPUE data. Furthermore, IFRDMD would also examine the information on eel biodiversity to facilitate the development of a digital map of anguillid eel distribution in the region, and would conduct genetic and stock analysis of the anguillid eels which are essential for development of the appropriate method of eel stock assessment. In addition, IFRDMD would explore the possibility of adopting the existing ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for enhancing the traceability of anguillid eel fisheries in Southeast Asia.

83. In response to the concern raised by the Council Director for Japan on whether the new project of IFRDMD would come up with data collection and stock assessment methods for anguillid eels rather than on the transfer of aquaculture technology, the Deputy Secretary-General explained that improvement of survival ratio and the development of aquaculture technology for anguillid eels was a part of the ongoing JAIF-supported project which will be completed during 2019, but not for the new project.

84. While agreeing with the results of the anguillid eel surveys in the AMSs, specifically the findings that glass eels are not found in the waters of Thailand and the aquaculture of anguillid eels is not practiced in the country, the Council Director for Thailand expressed the support of Thailand in the development of stock assessment methods and strengthening of measures for management of tropical anguillid eel resources in Southeast Asia. He therefore requested that the involvement of officers from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand in data collection at the project sites would be considered, as well as the participation of such officers in relevant training courses and other related activities.

5.2.3 Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreak in Southeast Asia

85. The Council took note of the report made by the Chief of SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) on the progress in the development of “Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia” (**Annex 16**). Specifically, the Council was informed on the results of the “ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia” organized on 20-22 August 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, as well as on the development of the “Regional Technical Guidelines and Mechanism for Early Warning System for Aquatic Diseases.”

86. While commending AQD for its efforts in developing the Regional Guidelines, the Council Director for Indonesia provided the following suggestions for the amendment of the Guidelines:

- Part 3: Add “Aquaculturist Community” defined as group of persons engaged in aquaculture
- Part 4.3: Additional inputs:
 - Prevent the spread of suspected diseases from their own farms to other farms
 - Perform treatments to reduce potential virulence
 - Document any information related to clinical signs, mortality, etc.
- Part 5: Additional inputs:
 - The aquaculturist and the aquaculturist community inform FHO or extension worker about any abnormal occurrences in the fish farm
 - FHO or extension worker inform competent authority (CA) about all abnormal occurrences in the fish farm and the presumptive diagnostic results
 - CA analyzes the report from FHO whether it is necessary to perform confirmatory examination or not. If it necessary, CA performs confirmatory examination and make the final report
- Part 6.2: Additional inputs:
 - Immediate recognition of signs of disease, or an emerging disease, or unexplained mortality, in aquatic animals at farm level by the aquaculturist/aquaculturist community
 - FHO/CA inspects, collects, and documents all information including samples related to abnormal occurrences and chorological occurrences
 - FHO informs CA about abnormal occurrence outbreak in the fish farm and also report the presumptive results
 - CA analyzes the report from FHO whether it is necessary to do confirmatory examination or not. If it is necessary, confirmatory examination can be started. The final report should consist of conclusion that the abnormal occurrence could differentiate the listed or emerging disease
- Part 6.3: Additional inputs:
 - Aquaculturist provides FHO/CA with information on abnormal occurrence/disease signs, as well as any movements of live animal prior to disease
 - Aquaculturist community do prevention the spread of the suspected disease at their farm to another location
 - Aquaculturist/aquaculturist community do any possible treatment to reduce of potential damage
 - Aquaculturist/aquaculturist community do documentation of any information related to clinical sign, mortality rate, etc.
- Part 7.3.3: Additional input:
 - Add FHO and Competent Authority

- Part 7.4: Additional input:
 - Add FHO and CA Staff

87. The Council Director for Thailand expressed the concern that since the countries were given short period of time to review the Regional Guidelines, Thailand could not provide any comments on the Guidelines at the moment. He therefore reiterated that SEAFDEC should make sure that documents requiring immediate approval of the Council are provided at least two weeks in advance, so that the Council would have adequate time for consideration. While expressing the appreciation to AQD for the development of the Regional Guidelines, the Council Directors for Malaysia and Singapore also shared the same concern with Thailand that more time would be necessary before any consideration on the Regional Guidelines could be made.

88. After the discussion, SEAFDEC was asked to reseek the Council’s approval of the Regional Guidelines *ad referendum*, after accommodating the suggestions made at this 51CM, and subsequently submit the Regional Guidelines to the ASEAN mechanism for endorsement, based on the following suggested timeline:

| Timeline | Actions |
|-----------------|--|
| 3 April 2019 | SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate the Regional Guidelines to the Council after accommodating the comments raised during the 51CM, for additional comments if any |
| 17 April 2019 | The Council Directors to send further comments on the Regional Guidelines back to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for inclusion in the revised Regional Guidelines |
| 26 April 2019 | SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate the final draft Regional Guidelines to the Council for approval |
| 10 May 2019 | The Council Directors to convey their approval of the Regional Guidelines to the SEAFDEC Secretariat |
| 13 May 2019 | Upon the Council’s approval, SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate the Regional Guidelines to the FCG-ASSP Focal Points for approval and subsequent endorsement to the 27 th Meeting of ASWGFi for endorsement |

5.3 Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region

5.3.1 Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood

89. After taking note of the progress of the development of the “Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region” as presented by the Chief of SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), the Council approved the Regional Guidelines (**Annex 17**).

90. While expressing the appreciation to MFRD for developing the Regional Guidelines that provide minimum standards for the AMSs in the implementation of cold chain management and considering the complexity of small-scale fisheries in the region, the Council Director for Indonesia requested MFRD to consider preparing an action plan to support the implementation of the Regional Guidelines by the AMSs. He added that such action plan could include capacity building for the stakeholders involved in the cold chain management especially the middlemen.

91. In order to promote and enhance the implementation of the cold chain management system for fish and fishery products in the ASEAN region, the Council approved the submission of the Regional Guidelines to the ASEAN mechanism for endorsement.

5.4 Others

5.4.1 Way Forward for Fishery Subsidies

92. The Council took note of the recommendations made during the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries-related Issues organized on 20-22 June 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, particularly on fishery subsidies (**Annex 18**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

93. During the discussion, the Council Director for Viet Nam suggested that SEAFDEC should work closely with FAO for collective inputs on the reference points (*e.g.* overcapacity, overfishing) for fishery subsidies. While sharing the concern of Viet Nam on the frequent discussions convened to discuss fishery subsidies at the WTO but considering the limited resources of the AMSs that constrain the countries from sending delegates to attend such discussions at the WTO, the Council Director for Malaysia expressed the apprehension that the idea of developing the ASEAN common position on fishery subsidies is no longer practical as the common position has to be endorsed by the ASEAN mechanism prior to the WTO negotiations, in which case it might no longer be timely to use such positions during the discussions.

94. While sharing the view that the WTO negotiations on fishery subsidies are frequently occurring, the Council Director for Japan mentioned that Japan regularly sends officers to attend the negotiations at the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland and observed that most of the participants are trade experts who are less familiar with fisheries issues. He therefore suggested that the AMSs participating in the negotiations should also send fisheries experts and alerted the AMSs that the WTO negotiations on fishery subsidies in 2019 would be very critical as several new proposals could be anticipated in view of the approaching timing of the Ministerial meeting.

95. While reiterating a provision under SDG 14 that includes the prohibition of certain forms of fishery subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, elimination of subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, among others, the Council Director for Indonesia supported and agreed with the aforementioned views expressed by the Council Directors for Viet Nam and Japan. Meanwhile, in responding to the comments made by the Council Director for Japan, the Council Director for Malaysia expressed the difficulties in sending fisheries representatives to the WTO meetings due to budgetary constraints. It is in this connection that sending of representatives from Malaysia is properly planned to make sure that fisheries experts are sent to take part in WTO meetings that discuss fisheries-related issues, *i.e.* fishery subsidies. Furthermore, he also mentioned that in order to minimize the cost of sending delegates directly from the fisheries agency to the WTO negotiations, a task force led by the Malaysian Ministry of International Trade based in Geneva could also be utilized to participate in the negotiations.

96. In conclusion, the Secretary-General informed the Council that SEAFDEC would work closely with FAO in updating the information on the results of discussions on fishery subsidies which would be shared with the Member Countries.

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

97. Representatives from the collaborating partners of SEAFDEC attending the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council were invited to inform the Council of their programs and activities relevant to the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, as well as the potential areas of cooperation with SEAFDEC.

98. The Interim Executive Director of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), *Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry*, on behalf of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and Coral Triangle Initiative and its six Member Countries, thanked SEAFDEC for the invitation to attend this valuable meeting. He also thanked the Government of Indonesia for the excellent hospitality in hosting the 51CM. He recalled that the collaboration between SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF started in 2015 and the 5-year Memorandum of Understanding to conserve the marine biodiversity in Southeast Asia and Coral Triangle Area was signed during the Forty-seventh Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. He continued that since

then, the CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC conducted several activities particularly with respect to the implementation of the EAFM. He also expressed the intention of CTI-CFF to collaborate with SEAFDEC in promoting the sustainability of sharks and rays fisheries in Southeast Asia and the Coral Triangle. Finally, he expressed the hope that the cooperation between SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF would continue to address the challenges and issues concerning oceans governance and marine biodiversity. His Statement appears as **Annex 19**.

99. The representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), *Dr. Simon Nicol* expressed the gratitude to SEAFDEC for inviting FAO/RAP to the 51CM, and to the Government of Indonesia for the hospitality and arrangements made for the Meeting. He pointed out the importance of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region and the degradation of aquatic resources, and the role of SEAFDEC in strengthening the regional cooperation and in supporting the efforts of the ASEAN Member States in combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. He also mentioned the importance of promoting the RFVR and the implementation of the PSM, and appreciated the efforts of SEAFDEC for promoting responsible fisheries, gender equity, and youth opportunities. He also expressed the hope for strengthened collaboration with SEAFDEC on combating IUU fishing, and implementation of the “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication,” among others. While reaffirming the intention of FAO to continue collaborating with SEAFDEC, he also mentioned about the forthcoming programs to be implemented in the region with funding support from GEF, such as the BOBLME – 2 (Strategic Action Plan Implementation), Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem Project (Governments of Timor Leste and Indonesia), GoTFish (Gulf of Thailand), and capacity development on inland fisheries in the Lower Mekong Basin. His Statement appears as **Annex 20**.

100. In the Statement of the Director-General of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) *Dr. Cherdsak Virapat*, read for him by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, he expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for the invitation extended to NACA to participate in the 51CM although NACA could not send any representative to attend the Meeting due to conflict of schedule. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for supporting several collaborative activities throughout the past five years, *Dr. Cherdsak* also provided information to the SEAFDEC Council that FAO in collaboration with NACA is planning to organize the “Global Aquaculture Millennium +20 Conference” in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China in September 2020, with the objectives of: 1) reviewing the present status and trends in aquaculture development; 2) evaluating the progress made in the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration and Strategy on Aquaculture Development Beyond 2000 and the Phuket Consensus 2010; 3) addressing the emerging issues in aquaculture development; 4) assessing the opportunities and challenges for future aquaculture development; and 5) building the consensus on advancing aquaculture as a global, sustainable and competitive food production sector. He reiterated the concerted desire of NACA and SEAFDEC to find opportunities to strengthen collaboration and coordination in aquaculture development activities in the region and beyond. His Statement appears as **Annex 21**.

101. The representative from the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), *Dr. R. Craig Kirkpatrick*, expressed the gratitude to SEAFDEC for the opportunity that enabled the USAID/RDMA to participate in the 51CM. He also thanked the Government of Indonesia for the hospitality and leadership during the Meeting. He reiterated that USAID will continue the collaboration with SEAFDEC and its Member Countries, and partners in combating IUU fishing, promoting sustainable fisheries management, and conserving marine biodiversity in the Southeast Asian region. He cited that the collaboration between USAID Oceans and SEAFDEC since 2015, which has drawn regional interest, involved works on electronic catch documentation and traceability, sustainable fisheries management, human welfare, and public-private sector engagement. In 2018, SEAFDEC and the USAID Oceans Fisheries Partnership worked together closely to develop the first known sub-regional fisheries management plan endorsed for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. Starting in 2019, the Partnership has been working closely with the governments of Thailand and Viet Nam to integrate the Partnership’s technology and learning in their respective local fisheries. Finally, he expressed the continued commitment of USAID in strengthening the relationship with SEAFDEC to promote its leadership and advance the priorities of its Member Countries towards national and regional priorities. His Statement appears as **Annex 22**.

102. After the Statements of the collaborating partners of SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Indonesia encouraged SEAFDEC to explore the possibility of collaborating with RFMOs that have common interest with that of SEAFDEC, *e.g.* with the IOTC.

103. In conclusion, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC thanked the representatives from the international and regional organizations for their collaboration and cooperation which are valuable for the implementation of the programs and activities of SEAFDEC.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 CITES-related Issues

104. The Council took note of the progress of the international and regional initiatives in addressing CITES issues including the development of common positions of the SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of aquatic species into the CITES Appendices (**Annex 23**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

105. The Council Director for Japan pointed out one possible factual error in the Secretariat report on the results of the discussions during the Sixth FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species. The representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat explained that the three species of sea cucumbers proposed for listing in the CITES Appendices received different determinations, *i.e.* the proposal on *Holothuria fuscogilva* does not meet the CITES Appendix II listing criteria; there was insufficient evidence to make a determination on *H. nobilis*; while the proposal on *H. whitmaei* meets the CITES Appendix II listing criteria.

106. Moreover, the Council was also informed that the Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP18 that had already been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum*, had been submitted to the FCG/ASSP Focal Points for endorsement to the ASWGF. Upon endorsement by the higher authorities of the ASEAN, the AMSs should reflect such Positions during the decision making at the CITES-CoP18.

107. The Deputy Secretary-General also explained that SEAFDEC was invited to attend the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement Network to be organized on 2-4 April 2019 in Sandakan, Malaysia, where the aforesaid ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position would be presented.

108. The Council Director for Japan informed the Council that Japan is still in the process of finalizing the country's position toward the proposals to list commercially exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices. Nevertheless, he cited that Japan would oppose the proposed listing of the mako sharks as the species is considered highly migratory and is subject to management by concerned RFMOs. However, sea cucumbers which are more sedentary and subject to national fisheries management, are also targeted for capture posing risk for illegal trade. Considering that the habitats and behavior of mako sharks and sea cucumbers are different, subjecting the species for listing in the Appendix II of CITES should not necessarily be treated in the same manner. Nonetheless, Japan would also take into consideration the positions of the AMSs in developing the country's final position on these species for the CITES-CoP18.

7.2 Revision of the Resolution and Plan of Action after 2020

109. The Council took note of the progress of the evaluation and revision of the Resolution and Plan of Action 2020 (RES&POA-2020), including the identification of priorities and issues necessary for revising the RES&POA-2020 (**Annex 24**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

110. While noting the proposed timelines presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat on the appointment of national focal points for the revision of the RES&POA-2020 by May

2019, the Council Director for Malaysia suggested that such timelines to designate national focal points prior to the conduct of the regional meeting to evaluate the implementation of the RES-POA2020, should be adjusted in order that some advance works could be undertaken prior to their attendance in the meeting. The Council Director for Myanmar also supported the adjustment of the timelines for the revision of the RES&POA-2020 as suggested by the Council Director for Malaysia.

7.3 Japanese Trust Fund (2020-2024)

111. The Council took note of the procedures and schedule of the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) for 2020-2024 (**Annex 25**) as presented by the Deputy Secretary-General and Japanese Trust Fund Project Manager of SEAFDEC, and that this new JTF would be an extension phase of the existing JTF-6 which is scheduled to be completed in 2019. Moreover, the Council was also informed that upon consideration of the JTF projects by the 41PCM, SEAFDEC will send the respective project annual plans for approval by the Fisheries Agency of Japan, and the implementation of the projects under the extended JTF would start in 2020.

112. While expressing the appreciation to the Government of Japan for extending support to SEAFDEC through the JTF for the sustainable development of fisheries in the AMSs, the Council Director for Indonesia suggested that the new phase of JTF should consider the conduct of more capacity building activities that focus on technology transfer aiming to increase production and on value adding of fish and fishery products, as well as on the enhancing the conservation of fisheries.

113. The Council Director for Thailand also expressed the gratitude to Japan for sustaining its support to the AMSs through the JTF, and informed the Council that Thailand has sent an official letter of appreciation to the Government of Japan through the Fisheries Agency of Japan for the support extended to SEAFDEC that enabled it to implement projects during the past decades.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC

114. During the Closed Session of the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council attended only by the Heads of Delegations of the Member Countries, the Council was informed by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General on the follow-up actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in accordance with the recommendations and suggestions raised during the Closed Session of the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council as follows:

- Regarding the invitation for Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste to attend the SEAFDEC meetings, SEAFDEC has sent invitation to Timor Leste to attend the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM) in 2018, but since SEAFDEC did not receive any response from them, SEAFDEC will no longer invite them to the PCM. However, SEAFDEC could still consider inviting Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea to participate in the technical meetings organized by SEAFDEC as deemed relevant.
- On the MOU between the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia and SEAFDEC, the MMAF agreed to change the “establishment of MOU” to “signing of specific Arrangement” to facilitate the implementation of the activities of IFRDMD. In this connection, the Arrangement between SEAFDEC and the Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources (AMAFRHR) of the MMAF of Indonesia which was approved by the Council *ad referendum*, has already been signed.

115. The Council also expressed the following views on important matters pertaining to the operations of SEAFDEC as raised by the Secretary-General:

- On the MOUs between SEAFDEC and institutions in China, SEAFDEC was reminded that it should seek approval of the Council prior to signing of any collaborative arrangements with non-Member Countries. In addition, the nature of cooperation should be carefully considered in establishing future collaborations with non-Member Countries.

- On the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN), five members are currently funded by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, and three by the JTF. While the funding from SEAFDEC-Sweden Project will be completed in 2019 although the funding from JTF could still be continued, possible options to maintain the RFPN program in the future was considered since the RFPN program provides capacity building opportunities for staff of the Member Countries to work at the SEAFDEC Secretariat for one year. In this connection, SEAFDEC could request nominations for RFPN members from countries on rotational basis, *e.g.* representatives from three countries to the RFPN in each year, and for countries that do not have sufficient number of staff, such countries may not send their representatives to the RFPN. Nevertheless, countries could still send additional staff as RFPN members at their own funding arrangement.
- Considering that the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project would be completed by the end of 2019, and that the final Project evaluation would be conducted by mid of 2019, it is possible that members of the evaluation team would visit some Member Countries to assess the achievements of the Project. In this connection, the comprehensive report of the activities and achievements of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project should be sent to the Project participating countries to provide the necessary information for such evaluation.

116. The Council also raised the following issues that need consideration:

- On the restructuring of the agencies in Singapore, all food functions would be placed under the responsibility of Singapore Food Agency of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources starting the first of April 2019. With such arrangement, the new Marine Aquaculture Center (MAC) will take over the responsibility in the implementation of the MFRD Programmes.
- While the on-going support of TD to Malaysia for the development of training syllabus on fishing gear design, vessel design, and marine engineering, among others was being acknowledged, TD was also requested to support the conduct of training on extension methodologies for extension officers from Malaysia. Moreover, the Council Director for Malaysia also proposed that SEAFDEC could consider supporting relevant experts from Member Countries to join its delegation for international meetings/important visits on rotational basis.
- On the need of Indonesia for the establishment of sustainable mariculture set up including procedures for site selection, zoning, impacts from feed to sea pollution, and also on responsible fishing practices, SEAFDEC should consider conducting R&D of the design of the mariculture set up as well as environmental friendly fishing gears, *e.g.* efficient materials and design of FADs, and fishing gears and equipment.
- While conducting research on anguillid eels, SEAFDEC should also focus on the development of artificial seed production techniques considering that the increased supply of artificial seeds would reduce fishing pressure on wild seeds, however, the experience of Japan indicates that production of artificial seeds of eel species would be very challenging due to certain problems such as the availability of juvenile feeds.
- Given the recent poor catches of Japanese glass eels, China has recently imported large amounts of American glass eels from the Caribbean countries. Although there is no proposal for listing of anguillid eels into the CITES Appendices during 18th Session of the CoP CITES in 2019, it is possible that the US might propose the American eel as well as other eel species as look-like species to be listed in the CITES Appendices at the CoP, and this would impact on the trade of tropical anguillid eels in the region.

117. The Council also shared their views on the future direction of the regional fisheries development, and when SEAFDEC undertakes the revision of the RES&POA-2020, the following areas should be taken into consideration:

- Marine debris and micro-plastics (linked to food safety issues)
- Environmental friendly fishing gears
- Sustainable mariculture set up
- Full-cycle breeding and aquaculture technologies for selected high-value species such as eel
- Alternative feed ingredients from land-based sources to replace fish meal
- Impacts of intensive aquaculture, *e.g.* parasites and pollution
- Aligning of SEAFDEC programs with blue economy

118. The Council suggested that SEAFDEC should consider moving towards a more environment-friendly practices in organizing meetings, workshops, and other events, replacing paper copies with electronic documents. Nevertheless, the minimal use of paper copies could still be considered (*i.e.* one set of hardcopy documents could be provided to the Head Delegate of each Member Country).

119. On the possibility of the Member Countries not hosting SEAFDEC Departments, to increase their respective Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to SEAFDEC as raised by the Council Director for the Philippines, to lessen the burden of countries hosting the Departments, the Council expressed the difficulties faced by several countries in changing the amount of their respective MRC, and suggested that countries not hosting Departments should therefore consider sharing the results of their national programs for the benefit of the other countries in the region.

IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels

120. The Council took note of the report on the Operations of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels (**Annex 26**) as presented by the representative from TD. For the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the Council took note of the utilization of the vessels in 2018, and endorsed its proposed operational plan for 2019. Specifically, the Council noted that in 2019 the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 would be used for the conduct of mid-water trawl survey in Malaysian waters, while the request of Viet Nam to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the conduct of fisheries resources survey in Viet Nam in 2019 was postponed to 2020. With regard to the M.V. SEAFDEC, the Council took note of the utilization of the vessel in 2018, and the proposed utilization of the vessel in 2019 for maintenance of the Tsunami Warning System in the Andaman Sea in collaboration with the National Disaster Warning Center of Thailand.

121. The Council Director for the Philippines made an observation that the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC and the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is mainly based on requests made by the Member Countries and for other uses such as the deployment of tsunami warning system in the Andaman Sea. He therefore suggested that SEAFDEC should consider developing a program for the utilization of the vessels that address the common concern of the Southeast Asian countries.

122. The Council Director for Japan expressed the concern on the decreased utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2019, while recognizing several reasons thereof. He added that the low utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 would pose problems in the future if SEAFDEC wants to acquire new research vessels with support from the Government of Japan. He therefore encouraged the other Member Countries to consider maximizing the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future.

123. The Council Director for Cambodia expressed the appreciation to TD for coordinating the fishery resources survey in the waters of Cambodia in 2018 using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Such survey came up with data that could be compared with the data from previous surveys conducted in the past 10 years in Cambodia, providing an understanding of the changes in fishery resources especially the demersal resources in Cambodian waters.

124. The Council Director for Malaysia expressed the appreciation to TD for considering the request of Malaysia to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the mid-water trawl survey in the waters of Malaysia in September 2019, and added that the details of the survey would be discussed with SEAFDEC including the necessary arrangements for such survey.

125. After commending TD for the sustained operations of the SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels, especially for the conduct of the “Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand,” the Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that the survey had provided opportunity to the Thai researchers involved in the survey, not only in strengthening their capability to conduct fisheries and oceanographic research, but also in establishing network among researchers in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region.

126. In responding to the query of the Council Director for Japan regarding the possible use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for training course for Thai researchers and crew from the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand, the representative from TD explained that the current training is basic fishing technology upon request from the DOF under the Departmental Program of TD. However, during this training the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was not used because the vessel was under renovation. Nevertheless, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 could be used to support advanced training course on fishing technology and marine resource survey for officers from Thailand during the later part of 2019.

127. The Chief of MFRDMD expressed the view that recently, the scientific echosounder of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has not worked properly and such equipment needs to be upgraded so that the vessel could be used for surveys of small pelagic fishery resources. In this connection, the representative from TD mentioned that TD has considered acquiring a new scientific echosounder for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. However, prior to acquiring a new one, TD made use of the scientific echo-sounder of DOF Thailand to test the compatibility of such equipment with the set up of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

128. The representative from TD also expressed the appreciation to the DOF Thailand for lending its scientific echosounder to TD as well as for allowing TD staff to participate in the survey in the Andaman Sea in 2018 which was coordinated by DOF Thailand using the Norwegian research vessel the R.V. Fridtjof Nansen and with support from FAO and Norwegian Government, as it has enabled the TD researchers to acquire the techniques on mid-water trawl survey that could be extended to other AMSs.

129. Considering that the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is upon request by the Member Countries, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC encouraged the Member Countries to make maximum use of the vessel in the future. Nevertheless, during the first few months of 2019, the vessel could not be utilized because the vessel is being overhauled with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). He added that in 2018 the vessel was used to support the collaborative research survey in the Gulf of Thailand in collaboration with Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. However, such SEAFDEC-supported surveys could not be conducted more frequently due to high budgetary requirements.

9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations

130. The Council took note of the collaborative arrangements established between SEAFDEC and other organizations that include: a) international/regional organizations, non-Member Governments and donors; and b) agencies within the Member Countries in 2018 until the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (**Annex 27**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

131. The Council also noted that three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed by AQD with three technical institutions in China. In this connection, the Chief of AQD clarified that these MOUs were intended to provide broad frameworks for collaboration, of which the detailed project proposals would be formulated later and coursed through SEAFDEC Secretariat for approval by the Council. However, no project has been formulated nor undertaken to date under these MOUs. He added that the MOUs were established in parallel with the terms indicated in the Philippine Government partnership with China on fisheries and aquaculture, specifically on the condition to “focus only on aquaculture training, exchange of experts, conduct of symposiums and applied R&D, including technology transfer.”

132. In this regard, the Council Director for Japan requested AQD to provide such details in writing to the Council Directors, and reiterated that SEAFDEC should adhere to the regulations that collaboration

with organizations and agencies of non-Member Countries and shall seek the approval of the SEAFDEC Council prior to entering into any terms of agreements or arrangements.

133. The Council Director for Cambodia expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for involving Cambodia in the collaborative project “Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in the AMSs with GIS and Remote Sensing Technology,” and indicated Cambodia’s commitment to support and provide necessary data and information to supplement data collection for the implementation of this project in Cambodia.

9.3 SEAFDEC Gender Strategy

134. The Council took note of the progress of the development of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy as presented by the representative of the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

135. While supporting and endorsing the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy, the Council Director for Indonesia informed the Council that Indonesia has a solid commitment to mainstream gender as part of its national development strategic plan and national regulations. He added that gender mainstreaming in the country’s fisheries sector had been strengthened through the conduct of activities including household business diversification, product development, and small-scale aquaculture. In this connection, he invited SEAFDEC to consider conducting pilot projects on gender in Indonesia as necessary, to enhance the implementation of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy in the Member Countries.

136. The Council Director for Thailand expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC on the development of SEAFDEC Gender Strategy which covers all important aspects, specifically the designation and empowerment of the SEAFDEC Gender Focal Persons (SGFP). He therefore requested SEAFDEC to also consider establishing gender focal points for the AMSs to facilitate cooperation between SEAFDEC and AMSs in support of the integration of gender perspectives in the fisheries sectors at the national and regional levels.

137. The Council Director for Japan expressed the view that since the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy is voluntary in nature, the word “shall” in the introductory sentence of the **Strategies** should be replaced with “should.” Furthermore, in response to the concerns raised on the rationale of Strategy 3.1, it was clarified that the intention of the Strategy is not to achieve equal number of female and male participants, but for the Member Countries and other organizations to strive towards providing equal opportunities for the participation of female and male representatives to the events organized by SEAFDEC.

138. To reflect such view and clarification, the Council made the following suggestions to revise the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy:

- An introductory sentence of the Strategies should be revised to read “*In order to achieve the objectives, the following strategies should be implemented:*”
- Strategy 3.1 should be revised to read “*Strive towards providing equal opportunities for the participation of male and female representatives from Member Countries and other organizations in events organized by SEAFDEC*”

139. After the discussion, the Council approved the revised SEAFDEC Gender Strategy for implementation by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments (**Annex 28**).

9.4 Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to Attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting

140. The Council took note of the proposed Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to Attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting (**Annex 29**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

141. During the discussion, the Council Director for the Philippines sought clarification from SEAFDEC on how SEAFDEC would proceed if the consensus of the Council could not be reached with respect to the participation of other organizations and non-member governments in SEAFDEC Council Meetings. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat explained that as described in the Proposed Procedures, in case there is no consensus, the SEAFDEC Secretariat could not extend invitations to other organizations and non-member governments to attend the Council Meeting.

142. The Council also noted that under the Guidelines on the Status of Various Organizations and Private Agencies Participation in SEAFDEC Programs which was approved by the SEAFDEC Council in 2000, requests for participation of organizations and private agencies in SEAFDEC programs should be made by the concerned Member Country(s) with the concurrence of all the Council Directors. However, in cases where SEAFDEC receives the requests directly from other IGOs or Governments to attend the Council Meeting, the Council agreed that SEAFDEC Secretariat can also propose the attendance of such IGOs and governments to the Council Meetings.

143. After the discussion, the Council approved the Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to Attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting.

9.5 Procedures for Endorsement of Policy Documents to the ASEAN Mechanism

144. The Council was informed on the Procedures for Endorsement of Policy Documents to the ASEAN Mechanism which was developed taking into consideration the discussions during the 21FCG/ASSP Meeting as reported by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat (**Annex 30**). Specifically, the Council was informed that during the 21FCG/ASSP, the Meeting agreed that policy documents submitted to the FCG/ASSP should be those that have already been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council. The Council was also informed on the establishment of the FCG/ASSP Focal Points comprising members from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in order that matters requiring urgent consideration could be considered and endorsed by the FCG/ASSP *ad referendum*, prior to their submission to the ASWGF.

145. The Council noted that this issue was raised because of the discussions on submission of policy documents and common positions that passed through the FCG/ASSP Meeting to the SEAFDEC Council Meeting and then to the ASWGF Meeting following the sequence of these meetings. However, after consideration of the documents by the FCG/ASSP Meeting and submission to the SEAFDEC Council Meeting, the SEAFDEC Council might have further comment on the documents. Therefore, the FCG/ASSP Focal Point was established to assure that the documents submitted to the ASWGF Meeting has passed through the appropriate FCG/ASSP mechanism.

146. The Council Director for Japan expressed his view that it might not be necessary for Japan to be included in the FCG/ASSP Focal Points, considering that Japan is not a member to ASEAN and the SEAFDEC Council is higher than the FCG/ASSP Focal Points, and that the issues that had already been decided by the SEAFDEC Council could not be amended by the FCG/ASSP Focal Points. In this regard, this 51CM confirmed that the SEAFDEC Council of Directors is the highest authority to make final decisions under the SEAFDEC mechanism; while the FCG/ASSP is joint mechanism between ASEAN and SEAFDEC to serve as channel for regional programs and policy documents submitted for endorsement through the ASEAN mechanism.

147. The Council Director for Singapore observed that the issue seemed to be that policy documents yet to be approved by Council was already channeled into the ASEAN Mechanism. As such, she suggested that an option was to rearrange the FCG/ASSP meetings to be convened after the Council Meetings. With regards to this suggestion, the Council Director for Viet Nam explained that such change would require amendment of the TOR of the FCG/ASSP. Furthermore, convening the FCG/ASSP Meeting has always been after the Program Committee Meeting (PCM) and prior to the Council Meeting in order that programs and matters that had been approved by the PCM could be scrutinized by the FCG/ASSP Meeting prior to their submission for endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN mechanism.

148. The Council reiterated that with the establishment of the FCG/ASSP Focal Points, matters that need to be submitted to the ASWGF could be coursed through the FCG/ASSP Focal Points after approval by the SEAFDEC Council without waiting until the next FCG/ASSP Meeting.

9.6 Future of RFPN after 2019

149. The Council was informed by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat on the status after 2019 of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network at the SEAFDEC Secretariat (**Annex 31**), which is currently being supported by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project and the Japanese Trust Fund. The Council was also informed that after 2019 funding from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project would no longer be available to support the RFPN although the JTF could still be availed of.

150. After the deliberation, the Council agreed that the RFPN should be continued with support from the JTF. Specifically, the JTF would support four (4) RFPN members in each year on a rotational basis, following the alphabetical order of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. For countries that do not wish to send an RFPN member with support from the JTF, the opportunity would be passed on to countries in the next order. Nevertheless, countries other than the four that gets JTF support, could consider sending their staff as RFPN members at their own funding arrangement.

9.7 Other Matters

9.7.1 Formation of Singapore Food Agency

151. The Council Director for Singapore informed the Council on the following changes in the government structure of Singapore in relation to the operations of SEAFDEC/MFRD:

- A new statutory board Singapore Food Agency (SFA) will be formed on 1st April 2019 from the merger of Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) and part of 2 other statutory boards. This re-organisation will bring together related functions and streamline processes to provide a more holistic oversight of Singapore's food safety, food security and all other relevant food-related matters. SFA will continue to uphold Singapore's commitment to implement the MFRD programmes.
- SFA's Marine Aquaculture Centre (MAC), will replace PHTC as the Collaborating Centre to implement the MFRD programmes.

152. The Council was also informed that such statements had been incorporated in the Plan of Operation and Program of Work: Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) Programmes (Revised 2019) which appears as **Annex 32**.

9.7.2 Rules for Paperless SEAFDEC Meetings

153. The Council Director of Japan proposed that future SEAFDEC meetings should be paperless, (*i.e.* replacing hard copies of documents with electronic formats of the working documents to be presented and shared by meeting participants, or participants can download the document files from the SEAFDEC website and print if necessary), unless the SEAFDEC Secretariat is requested to provide some participants with hardcopies of the working documents prior to the meetings. In response, the Deputy Secretary-General informed the Council that at least the SEAFDEC annual meetings, such as the Program Committee Meetings and Council Meetings, would be paperless, while SEAFDEC would try its best to make other technical meetings paperless as deemed practical.

154. Upon the request of the Council, the Rules for Paperless SEAFDEC Meetings (**Annex 33**) was developed by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and supported by the Council.

9.7.3 ASEAN Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in Partnership with the EU

155. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that the Department of Fisheries, Thailand in association with the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument or E-READI will convene the ASEAN Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in Partnership with the EU on 4-5 April 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting aims to develop and create an operational network that would enable easy communication between the relevant enforcement agencies and national authorities, and share and exchange of information between relevant flag States, coastal States, port States, and RFMOs with the AMSs. He added that the invitation letters had already been sent to the AMSs by the ASEAN Secretariat, and it is expected that the Meeting would provide opportunity for the AMSs to share ideas, discuss and identify work, priorities, and best practices that will be used for developing the scope and work plan for the establishment of ASEAN IUU fishing task force.

X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2017

156. In accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 2 (ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council endorsed the audited consolidated financial statements of the Center for the year ended 31 December 2017 including that of the Secretariat and the four Departments for the Year 2017 (**Annex 34**) as audited by the official auditors of the Center, *Mr. Phongtorn Duangphanya* from P&A Audit Company Limited, Thailand.

10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2018, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2019

157. The Council took note of the Un-audited Consolidated Financial Report for the Year 2018 (**Annex 35**), which comprised the Un-audited Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2018, the Un-audited Statements of Income and Expenditures for the Year 2018, and the Un-audited Fund Balance as of 31 December 2018, as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

158. With regards to the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) in 2019, the Council noted the commitment expressed by the Council Director for Viet Nam that the country's MRC in the amount of USD 26,000 will be transferred to SEAFDEC, but requested SEAFDEC to send again the official letter which is needed to facilitate the internal procedures for transferring the money from Viet Nam to SEAFDEC.

159. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the Council that Indonesia will transfer the MRC to SEAFDEC by the end of March 2019, while the Council Director for Myanmar will transfer the MRC to SEAFDEC by April 2019.

160. The Council endorsed the Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2019 (**Annex 36**), which includes the un-audited financial report at the end of 2018.

161. The Council approved the new auditing firms for the period 2018-2022 and noted that the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year 2018, Secretariat Financial Statements for the Year 2018, and the Training Department Financial Statements for the Year 2018 would be audited by Auditor *Mr. Pongsakorn Suwannasaksin* of the Auditing Firm P. Polymaths Audit Company Limited. Meanwhile, AQD's Financial Statements for the Year 2018 would be audited by *Mr. Orvil Deroja* of the KPMG R.G. Manabbat & Co.; and MFRDMD Financial Statements for the Year 2018 would be audited by *Mrs. Rosdelima Binti Mohd Ali Jaafar* of the Messrs Rosdelima & Co. (AF 1563). The Audited Financial Statements of SEAFDEC for the Year 2018 would be presented during the Fifty-second Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2020.

10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2020

162. While expressing satisfaction with the manner of which the budget is utilized by SEAFDEC, the Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2020 as shown in **Annex 37**. However, in order to give more time for consideration by the Council of the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center, the Council Director for Japan suggested that the necessary documents should also be provided to the SEAFDEC Council of Directors in advance.

163. After the discussion, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General expressed the gratitude of SEAFDEC to the Council for endorsing the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the year 2020.

10.4 Other Financial Matters

164. On the concern raised by the Council Director for the Philippines regarding the utilization of the accumulated funds, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General explained that such funds are used for important events that have not been previously allocated with funds (*e.g.* celebration of the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC), renovations and maintenance of buildings and facilities, acquisition of office equipment, and so on. However, he assured the Council that the SEAFDEC funds including the accumulated funds are spent in the most prudent, modest, and cost-effective manner.

165. Moreover, the Council Director for the Philippines also suggested about the possibility of rearranging the agenda of the future SEAFDEC Council Meetings, specifically the agenda involving the financial status of the Center which should be presented before the agenda on any matter that requires budgetary consideration or decision by the Council.

XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS

11.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report and Press Statement

166. The Council adopted the Report of the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Press Statement on the results of the Meeting on 22nd March 2019 as shown in **Annex 38**.

167. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC on behalf of SEAFDEC expressed his utmost gratitude to the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for excellently orchestrating the 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Surabaya City, Indonesia. He also thanked the organizers from Indonesia for the outstanding arrangements that made all non-Indonesian participants very comfortable during their stay in Surabaya City.

11.2 Date and Venue of the Fifty-second Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

168. In considering the date and venue of the Fifty-second Meeting of the Council, the Council Director for Japan informed the Council that the Government of Japan would accept the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in Tokyo, Japan in March or April 2020.

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

11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

170. The Council Director for Myanmar, on behalf of the SEAFDEC Council of Directors expressed the appreciation of the Council to the Government of Indonesia for hosting and for the excellent arrangements of this 51CM. He also congratulated the Chairperson of the Meeting for the successful conduct of the 51CM, and looked forward to enhancing SEAFDEC to enable it to continue performing its role in the sustainable development of fisheries in our region. He also expressed the gratitude to the Secretariat of the Meeting especially the staff of MMAF of Indonesia for the smooth arrangements of the Meeting and for the memorable moments in Surabaya City, Indonesia. His Remarks appears as **Annex 39**.

XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

171. The Chairperson expressed the appreciation to the SEAFDEC Council of Directors and the representatives from regional and international organizations as well as to the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Chiefs of Departments for the support accorded him during the 51CM. He reiterated that the recommendations obtained from the 51CM would strengthen the cooperation among Member Countries and expressed the hope that all the decisions made would accelerate the implementation of SEAFDEC programs and activities in 2019 benefiting all the Member Countries through mutual respect and cooperation. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Secretariat of the Meeting for their hard work which led to the success of the 51CM. With that note, he declared the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council closed.

172. On behalf of SEAFDEC, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC expressed his sincere thanks to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality during the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in the beautiful City of Surabaya. He also thanked the Chairperson of the Meeting for his excellent leadership during the 51CM. He stated that the Meeting obtained a very fruitful discussion to assess and address the issues that would enable SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to set the direction and policies for the implementation of SEAFDEC programs and projects. He assured the Council that SEAFDEC would do its best to support the Member Countries to ensure that they are on track in achieving the SDG 14 by implementing sustainable fisheries management and responsible fishing practices in the region. This 51CM has therefore created concrete actions toward sustainable fisheries development in the region. He also extended his appreciation to the members of the organizing team of the Government of Indonesia as the host country, for their unstinted support for this important Meeting. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 40**.

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WELCOME STATEMENT

By Prof. Sjarief Widjaja

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His Excellency, *Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak*, Vice Governor of East Java Province,
Your Excellencies, my colleagues the distinguished SEAFDEC Council Directors,
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Executive Director of CTI-CFF, Representative from FAO and USAID/RDMA,
Distinguished Guests from the SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

First of all, I would like to apologize because SEAFDEC Council Director for Indonesia is unable to attend this meeting due to the news of the grief received that his beloved brother sadly passed away this morning. So I represented him to speak and welcome all delegates on behalf of the SEAFDEC Council Indonesia.

Please allow me, on behalf of the organizing committee of this Fifty First Council Meeting, to express my appreciation and gratitude to *Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak*, Vice Governor of East Java Province to be with us here today at the Opening Ceremony of the Fifty First Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. To our Distinguished Guests and Meeting Delegates, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I would like to extend our warmest welcome and appreciation for your participation in this important meeting. It is indeed our honor and pleasure to host this Fifty First Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Surabaya, Indonesia.

SEAFDEC aims to help improving ASEAN Member States' ability to manage its fisheries in sustainable manner, and one of which is by improving the government's roles in combating IUU Fishing that still become a global concern for the sustainability of resources and improvement of fisheries business. We therefore hope that SEAFDEC would continue to work with member countries for attaining sustainable fisheries development and people prosperity in the Southeast Asian region.

At this juncture, we would also wish to reiterate SEAFDEC for its efforts in strengthening collaboration and cooperation among its Member Countries in order to come up with the measures and tools to combat IUU fishing in our region. From such collaboration, various tangible outputs has been produced, such as the Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain, Regional Fishing Vessels Record and Database, the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme, and Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region. In this regard, I would like to encourage SEAFDEC Secretariat and all member states to implement these measures and tools more serious and consistent to tackle the issues on IUU Fishing in our region.

We also praise SEAFDEC for its efforts in promoting the Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Eel Aquaculture, where Indonesia is one of the biggest producers of eel in the world. We surely would continue the works on stock assessment, and conservation of eel resources in Indonesia. In this regard, we have to be mindful that the artificial breeding of any eels species are not available yet. Therefore, I would like to ask the member Countries to endorse of The Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all are aware that the framework and mandate of SEAFDEC is to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in our region that will improve the livelihood dependent to fisheries resources. As the member of community and policy maker, we have the same concern on several un-responsible practices that still being implemented and damage the sustainability of our fisheries resources. Therefore, we urge SEAFDEC to work harder with member Countries to put maximum effort in educating our private sectors to fully comply with national regulations in accordance with the global fisheries best practices.

In our meeting during the coming days, while we will assess and address the issues that will enable us to set the direction and policy for the implementation of those instruments, I wish to assure you that Indonesia would continue to support the activities. The member countries also need more robust collaboration focusing on capacity building envisioned to nail the gap of the wide disparity of development in fisheries and aquaculture among the countries in the region.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Her Excellency Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, *Madam Susi Pudjiastuti* were scheduled to attend and open this Meeting, however due to aircraft technical problem this morning, she had to cancel her attendance. But, I still have the good news that *Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak*, Vice Governor of East Java Province, will speak on behalf of Her Excellency to direct our deliberations over the next four days and guide us to work for the stability, prosperity and sustainability of the fisheries sectors in the region.

To my colleagues in the SEAFDEC Council, the Secretary-General and Officers of SEAFDEC, and our distinguished guests, as I close my welcome remarks, I hope that you will have a pleasant stay in Surabaya, and enjoy exploring the great culinary of this city.

Let us work together so that our future generations can continue to enjoy fish as a regular part of their meal.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

WELCOME REMARKS

By *H.E. Eng Cheasan*

*Director-General, Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and
Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the year 2018-2019*

Our Distinguished Guest(s) of Honor;
The Vice Governor of East of Java Province, Indonesia, *Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak*;
My Colleagues, the SEAFDEC Council Directors;
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
The SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General;
Officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments;
Representatives from international and regional organizations;
Representatives from national agencies of Indonesia;
Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been almost one year since we had the Fiftieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Cambodia, and I am very happy to be with you again for the next five days, in this City of Surabaya, the capital of Indonesia's East Java and historically known as the "city of heroes." As you must have noticed also, this is perhaps one of the few cities that have as its emblem two aquatic species that are considered as species of international concern: shark and crocodile. Very appropriate indeed for our Meeting considering that in the next few days, our discussion would also include international-related fisheries issues especially that we will have the CITES-CoP18 this year in Sri Lanka, where these species could be included, among other things, in their discussions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let us also recall that during our Special Council Meeting in November 2017, we adopted the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies towards 2030 that reflects the direction that SEAFDEC should take in its continuing efforts to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in our region. Consequently, we also asked SEAFDEC to align its present and future programs and projects in accordance with the Strategies.

Today, I am happy to proclaim that SEAFDEC has been implementing programs and projects during the past 12 months as well as in the coming months that are in line with the Strategies that we adopted, thus ascertaining the Member Countries that our needs and requirements for sustainable fisheries are being addressed. Specifically, as we had also agreed, the programs and projects of SEAFDEC are geared towards achieving the ultimate goals of: securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of the people; supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture; ensuring food safety and quality of fish and fishery products; enhancing trade of fish and fishery products while complying to market requirements; addressing cross-cutting issues that include climate change and international fisheries-related concerns, among others; and empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and improve services to Member Countries. For its efforts, we are very grateful to SEAFDEC and wish that it will keep up the good work.

Furthermore, I am also happy to note that SEAFDEC has made significant progress in strengthening its cooperation and partnership with other international and regional organizations, national agencies of the Member Countries, as well as non-member governments that share common interest towards sustainable fisheries development. Many of these organizations have provided expertise, especially in regional consultations on wide range of subjects where the concerns of the Member Countries are compiled to ensure that these are properly addressed. SEAFDEC also continued to compile its outputs and disseminate these to target audience, and very recently, SEAFDEC convened the "Regional Consultation for Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices" where the proposed listing of several commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices was discussed as these could have impacts to our trade in fish and fisheries products. Although the Consultation could not come up with the same position of all the countries, after consultation with Brunei Darussalam, Philippines and

Singapore, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries have finally arrived at the agreement not to endorse the proposal for the “Inclusion of the short-fin Mako shark, *Isurus oxyrinchus* and long-fin Mako shark *Isurus paucus*” under the Appendix II of CITES.

On behalf therefore of the SEAFDEC Council of Directors, I would like to commend SEAFDEC for its efforts, specifically for supporting the Member Countries in our endeavors to proceed with the development of our fisheries in sustainable manner. As what we confirmed during our last Council Meeting, the Member Countries would continue to support SEAFDEC in its programs and projects, a commitment which I am sure would be renewed during our Meeting in the next few days.

At this juncture also, let me extend our profound gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council here in this beautiful City of Surabaya.

Again, welcome to our Fifty-first Meeting. Thank you and have a good day.

WELCOME STATEMENT

By Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak

Vice Governor of East Java Province, Indonesia

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi warabakatuh,
May God bless us all,*

*H.E. ENG Cheasan, Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for 2018-2019;
Distinguished SEAFDEC Council Directors; and
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
The Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC; and
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments;
Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,*

As Vice Governor of East Java Province, I am grateful for the opportunity to welcome you personally to our province. I am Emil Elestianto Dardak, and I would like to extend Indonesia's greetings to you all to this year's SEAFDEC Council Meeting. It is truly a great honor for the Province of East Java to host The 51st SEAFDEC Council Meeting, a long lasting cooperation in fisheries development between South East Asian Countries and Japan since 1967.

Indonesia and particularly the province of East Java understand the importance of fisheries in the lives of the people. The East Java province is mostly connected locally through rivers, such as the famous Bengawan Solo. This province is also connected domestically and internationally through our seaports such as Tanjung Perak in Surabaya.

Fisheries sector provides an important source approximately 7 billion people across the globe. There a million people who directly engage, part tim production of fish, either by fishing or in aquacult make the current fisheries resources sustainable, s by both current and future generations. Indonesia is currently on achieve that goal through the three pillars of national fisheries development, sovereignty, sustainability, and prosperity. I believe all the Countries those are represented here also have worked hard to achieve sustainable fisheries development.

As a part of community who lives in a country that has huge water resources, I do understand the value of the rivers, lakes and sea to support people livelihoods through the practice of aquaculture and capture fisheries by almost 90% of small scales fisheries.

However, in light of recent events such as the flooding of Bengawan Solo River, we also understand the danger and negative impact of these resources could have if not managed in properly way. In this regard, The Province of East Java along with other provinces in Indonesia have strong support to maintain and improve the good condition of rivers and sea.

As such, East Java Province have established conservation zones (marine protected areas) along the coastal area of the province, encouraged the development and production of fisheries either from capture fisheries or aquacultures.

Last year, East Java Province has uplifted 35 marine and fisheries groups to higher status, encouraging the use of environment-friendly fishing equipment, developing and increasing sea resources productivity and eradicating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices. I am determined to continue this achievement in my years as Governor of East Java.

I have heard that SEAFDEC as regional organization that working on marine and fisheries areas, have been continuously assisting ASEAN Member Countries to development fisheries sector in sustainable way. Many programs that has been conducted by SEAFDEC and its Departments, among others: Regional

Technical Consultation (RIO) facilitate Countries including Indonesia to address international issues as IUU Fishing, Catch Certification, and Port State Measures (PSI). SEAFDEC also provides trainings for marine and fisheries stakeholders in conducting stock assessments, good aquaculture practices, fish handlings and safety as sea. I also appreciate the support of SEAFDEC in the establishment of Inland Fisheries Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) to support improvement of inland fisheries in the region.

I hope this meeting can create concrete actions to protect our fisheries resources and to make our ocean healthier. With that note, I am closing this remark and I hereby officially declare the Fifty First Meeting of SEAFDEC Council is opened.

Thank you very much, and I wish you all have a good and memorable stay in Surabaya.

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi warabakatuh.

OPENING ADDRESS

By Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak

Vice Governor of East Java Province, Indonesia

H.E. ENG Cheasan, Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council 2018-2019;
Distinguished SEAFDEC Council Directors, and Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
The Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC;
Executive Director of CTI-CFF, Representative from FAO and USAID RDMA;
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments,

Ladies and Gentlemen; A very good morning!

First of all, I am sorry to inform you that Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, *Madam Susi Pudjiastuti* this morning had to cancel her attendance to open this meeting due to aircraft technical problem. And I am honored to speak on behalf of Her *Excellency Susi Pudjiastuti* to welcome you all to Surabaya, the *city of heroes*. It is indeed my great pleasure and privilege to be invited here to officiate the Opening Ceremony of the Fifty-first SEAFDEC Council Meeting.

Indonesia acknowledges the important role of SEAFDEC, particularly in assisting member countries to promote sustainable fisheries and conservation of marine resources. These efforts are important for us to achieve the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: *to conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development*.

Indonesia realizes that the ocean is important to provide food, jobs, and recreational activities. We are also aware that fisheries, one of our sources for food security, continue to deplete at an alarming rate. Last year, the FAO reported that more than 90% of global fish stock is heavily exploited due to overfishing and IUU fishing.

Since 2014, Indonesia pledges to put IUU fishing as national priority in fisheries sector. We have introduced strict policies and tough enforcement against IUU fishing operations in Indonesia.

In 2014, we imposed a one-year fishing moratorium upon foreign vessels built in foreign country (ex-foreign vessels).

The moratorium was quickly followed with an in-depth evaluation on more than 1,000 ex-foreign vessels conducted by the Ministerial Task Force on Prevention and Eradication of IUU fishing. The Task Force found all of these vessels violated Indonesian fisheries law, and even committed serious crime against humanity: human trafficking and slavery.

We also sunk IUU fishing vessels in order to generate deterrence and show that Indonesia is serious in combatting IUU fishing.

Indonesia also introduced several new policies to protect sustainability of our fisheries resources, among others:

- a. Prohibition of transshipment at sea to reduce the risk of unreported catches;
- b. Ban on the use of unsustainable fishing gears;
- c. Ban on baby lobster exportation;
- d. Regulate the minimum capture size of crab and lobster;
- e. Prohibition of capturing and exporting spawning crabs;
- f. Eradication of destructive fishing or blast fishing.

In order to further protect marine biodiversity and the habitat of living marine organisms, Indonesia has now established over 20 million hectare of marine protected areas (MPAs) and set a goal to reduce marine plastic debris by 70% in 2025.

These actions and policies should show that Indonesia is on track in achieving the SDG 14.

Indonesia's policies to protect the ocean resources have resulted with positive outcomes.

Up until 2018, the fisheries sector is growing above national economy. Until the third quarter of 2017, the growth of fisheries GDP has reached 6.79% with value of 169,513 billion rupiah. These numbers exceed both the national GDP and agriculture GDP.

Fish consumption in Indonesia is raising in every province. Since 2014 to 2017, fish consumption is increasing to 21.9%.

Indonesia also enjoys significant increase of fish stock from 7.31 million tons/year in 2013 to 12.54 million tons/year in 2017.

The Fishermen Business Exchange Value has the most significant increase compared to other indicators, from 107.37 in 2014 to 126.34 in 2018. This indicates economic improvement of our fishermen.

In 2017, fisheries non-tax revenues reached 27.5 billion US Dollar, the highest record over the last 10 years.

According to International Trade Center 2017, Indonesia is leading the fisheries trade balance in ASEAN.

We also must keep in mind that South East Asian countries are connected by the ocean and its resources. The policies introduced by one of our countries shall have immediate effect to other countries in the region. Thus, I believe that if we succeed in maintaining the sustainability of our fisheries resources, the result can also be enjoyed by other ASEAN countries.

This is where I hope SEAFDEC can play its role.

SEAFDEC has an important role to ensure South East Asian countries are on track to achieve the SDG 14, by implementing sustainable fisheries management and responsible fishing practices.

SEAFDEC also has a role in ensuring that the South East Asian countries are cooperating in order to have a healthier and more sustainable ocean.

SEAFDEC should have role to oversee the status of the regional fish stock and encourage its member countries to have policies that protect the health and sustainability of fisheries and ocean resources.

SEAFDEC must ensure that the benefits of ocean resources in the region can be enjoyed equitably by all of its member countries.

I hope this meeting can create concrete actions to protect our fisheries resources and to make our shared ocean healthier. With that note, I am closing this remark and I hereby officially declare the Fifty First Meeting of SEAFDEC Council is opened.

Thank you and good day!

OPENING REMARKS

By *H.E. Eng Cheasan*

*Director-General, Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and
Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2018-2019*

My Colleagues, the SEAFDEC Council Directors;
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
The SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General;
Officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments;
Representatives from international and regional organizations;
Representatives from national agencies of Indonesia;
Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning, and welcome once again to our Meeting.

At the outset, please allow me to thank again the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries for hosting our Fifty-first Meeting here in Surabaya City. Thank you also to all of you for joining this Meeting, which would address a number of issues that are looming in the horizon some of which seem to threaten the sustainability of our fisheries. Just the same we need to tackle all of them during our discussions.

Today, let me also express my profound gratitude to my colleagues from the Council for making my term as your Chair, smooth and easy. I am also very grateful to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments for your efforts in helping me cope with the issues and concerns that emerged during my term as the Council's Chair.

Now, as I am about to relinquish the Chairmanship, I would like to assure you again that Cambodia will continue to do our best to support SEAFDEC and the new Chair of the Council. As I had asked of you in my Welcome Remarks earlier, let us all provide our all-out support to whoever sits here as the incoming Chair of the Council for the betterment of our fisheries in the region. Let us also give our full support SEAFDEC to be able to sustain its programs and activities.

Thank you once again.

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting by Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2018-2019
- 1.2 Election of Chairperson for the Year 2019-2020
- 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting

Agenda 2: Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda 3: Note of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Program Committee on the Results of the Forty-first Meeting

Agenda 4: Note of the Chairperson of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) on the Results of the Twenty-first Meeting of FCG/ASSP

Agenda 5: Policy Consideration on Important Issues

- 5.1 Issues on Combating IUU Fishing
 - 5.1.1 ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain
 - 5.1.2 Regional Fishing Vessels Record
 - 5.1.3 ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme
 - 5.1.4 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of the Port State Measures in ASEAN Region
 - 5.1.5 Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity
- 5.2 Regional Cooperation to Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in the ASEAN Region
 - 5.2.1 Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region
 - 5.2.2 Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture
 - 5.2.3 Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreak in Southeast Asia
- 5.3 Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region
 - 5.3.1 Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood
- 5.4 Other
 - 5.4.1 Way Forward for Fishery Subsidies

Agenda 6: Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations and Non-member Governments

Agenda 7: Other Matters

- 7.1 CITES-related Issues
- 7.2 Revision of the Resolution and Plan of Action after 2020
- 7.3 Japanese Trust Fund (2020-2024)

Agenda 8: Future Direction Requested by the Council

Agenda 9: Management of the Center

- 9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels
- 9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations
- 9.3 SEAFDEC Gender Strategy
- 9.4 Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to Attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting
- 9.5 Procedures for Endorsement of Policy Documents to the ASEAN Mechanism
- 9.6 Future of RFPN after 2019
- 9.7 Other Matters

Agenda 10: Financial Matters

- 10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2017
- 10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2018, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2019
- 10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2020
- 10.4 Other Financial Matters

Agenda 11: Concluding Matters

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

Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Forty-first Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Langkawi, Malaysia from 5 to 7 November 2018 and hosted by the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, in his capacity as the Chairperson of SEAFDEC Program Committee, chaired the Meeting which reviewed the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2018 and scrutinized the programs to be implemented in 2019 to ensure that these have been formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. The lists of SEAFDEC Programs and Projects for 2018-2019 appear in *Appendix 1*.

The Meeting noted **Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism**, which comprise the twenty-three (23) projects that have been categorized under the six (6) SEAFDEC Strategies: 1) Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region; 2) Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region; 3) Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region; 4) Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements; 5) Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries; and 6) Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries; and two (2) Special Projects. The Program Committee noted that two (2) of the FCG/ASSP projects are scheduled to be completed in 2018, and one new project will be implemented starting in 2019. The Program Committee approved the implementation of the projects in 2018-2019, and provided recommendations which could be summarized as follows:

Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

- (1) **Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries**
 - TD to consider in the future, the possibility of supporting the introduction of EAFM concept in three sites in Thailand, two for inland and one for coastal areas
 - TD to consider supporting an initiative in the promotion of EAFM at a new pilot site in Kaw Thauang, Myanmar
 - TD to consider extending the future project activities in Tonle Sap Lake of Cambodia
 - TD to share the lessons learnt from the different pilot sites, and consider the development of KPIs to facilitate evaluation of the project implementation
- (2) **Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities**
 - TD to consider conducting in 2019 a pilot demonstration activity on improvement of fish handling onboard tuna purse seiner in Bin Dinh Province, Viet Nam
 - TD to investigate the significant outcomes of the project using measurable indicators to compare the situation before and after the project implementation
- (3) **Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia**
 - TD to consider engaging aquaculture aspects in resource enhancement projects to enhance the production of the species for conservation, such as production of multi-species seeds for stock enhancement in natural habitats
 - TD to consider incorporating the development of effective FADs and FEDs, as well as formulating standard procedures for assessing the abundance of the resources prior to and after the deployment of FADs and FEDs
 - TD to consider extending the activities on crab bank to other sites in Cambodia, *i.e.* Kampot Province and to provide awareness raising materials for dissemination in the landing sites of the country's four coastal provinces

- TD to invite Malaysia to take part as observer in the workshop on hilsa resources that will be conducted for Myanmar and Thailand
 - TD to consider conducting a workshop to introduce FEDs in Indonesia in 2019
 - TD to develop a basic model on sustainable resource enhancement that would also include aquaculture to guide the communities in making their own fisheries management programs
- (4) **Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia**
- IFRDMD to develop guidelines aimed at raising the awareness of local people about the importance of glass eels
 - IFRDMD to conduct biological studies aiming for the conservation of the eel resources
 - IFRDMD to consider the possibility of adopting appropriate stock assessment models that could make use of very limited data
- (5) **Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
- IFRDMD to continue exerting efforts to link this project with other relevant programs of IFRDMD on the promotion of inland capture fisheries
- (6) **Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management**
- The project would be completed in 2018
- (7) **Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities**
- TD to consider in its plans for combating IUU fishing the following activities: 1) capacity building on fisheries surveillance to combat IUU fishing; and 2) regional capacity building on investigation and inspection techniques, and fisheries law enforcement to combat IUU fishing
 - TD to consider expanding the scale and contents of the project on combating IUU fishing
 - TD to seek the consensus of the Member Countries prior to the expansion of the RFVR to cover those vessels less than 24 meters in length
 - TD to consider communicating with FAO to request for updated information on the development of the Global Fishing Vessel Record ; and linking the RFVR with and serve as inputs to the FAO Global Fishing Vessel Record
 - TD to consider establishing a regional network for facilitating communication and exchanging of information on the status of implementation of the PSMA among the ASEAN Member States (AMSS)
 - TD to consider organizing an expert consultation to develop a harmonized protocol for vessel inspection at sea especially in areas within and beyond national jurisdictions, by contacting the concerned RFMOs to obtain information on their respective procedures for vessel inspection at sea
 - TD to consider conducting Training of Trainers on vessel inspection, as well as observers onboard fishing vessels
- (8) **Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019
- (9) **Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia**
- TD to consider involving Thailand in the activity on tuna stock assessment in Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, and to extend to Thailand its training course on growth analysis based on otolith samples
 - TD to check with concerned RFMOs on their activities related to tuna stock assessment to ensure that the SEAFDEC stock assessment initiatives would support rather than duplicate the work of such RFMOs
 - TD to include brief results from the stock assessment activity when reporting on the progress to the next PCM as this would be useful in the discussion of the future workplan
 - TD to continue conducting stock assessment of tuna in Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, the results of which could be conveyed to WCPFC for their reference

- TD to continue assisting Cambodia in strengthening the capacity of the country's fishery officers, especially in analyzing the data and finalizing the results of the survey undertaken in 2018 using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2
 - TD to exchange and disseminate information with the CTI-CFF especially the results of the works undertaken by SEAFDEC in this particular area
 - TD to consider including in this project, the modernization of fishing vessels for the sustainability of fishery resources
- (10) **Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region**
- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019
- (11) **Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
- MFRDMD to provide technical assistance to the Member Countries in establishing reference points towards and harvest control rules for transboundary stocks, as well as to conduct biological studies on other important species such as round scads, neritic tunas, and sardines
 - MFRDMD to consider in the project future plan, providing technical assistance to the Member Countries on the analysis of appropriate Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and Total Allowable Effort (TAE) of target species
- (12) **Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region**
- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019
- (13) **Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia**
- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019
- (14) **SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II**
- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019
- (15) **Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS**
- The 41PCM took note that this project would be implemented starting from 2019.

Strategy II: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

- (16) **Environment-Friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources**
- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019
- (17) **Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management and the Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region**
- AQD to consider including Thailand as participating country for Activity 5: Technology Extension and Demonstration considering that Thailand has large-scale aquaculture industry

Strategy III: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region

(18) Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia- Biotoxins (ASP, AZA and BTX) and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the ASEAN Region

- MFRD to consider including the harmonization of techniques for detecting and analyzing biotoxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the region and the development of reference points for biotoxin analysis

Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements

(19) Cold Chain Management for Seafood

- MFRD to submit the guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Seafood to FCG/ASSP for support and subsequently, for submission to the next SEAFDEC Council Meeting for endorsement

(20) Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to update the information on international fish trade-related issues, and to upload the information on international trade in the respective countries of current RFPN members, in the SEAFDEC website by the end of 2018

Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries

(21) Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues

- SEAFDEC to include Malaysia as one of the project sites in 2019 for the eACDS activities
- SEAFDEC to ensure that the eACDS would target not only commercial fisheries but also small-scale fisheries as this is a very important sub-sector for the region

Strategy VI: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries

(22) Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2

- TD to consider the proposal of Viet Nam on the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the conduct of a survey of marine fisheries in Viet Nam, for a period of two months from June to August 2019
- TD to provide the services of its resource persons to support the conduct of a training course in Thailand on marine resources survey onboard a Thai research vessel in 2019
- TD to consider the proposal of Malaysia on the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for its mid-water trawl survey in Malaysian waters in 2019

(23) Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries

- TD to extend assistance to Cambodia in the modification of its marine fishing vessel database to accommodate the changes in vessel classification from Horsepower to length class
- SEAFDEC to sustain the regional and/or sub-regional mechanism in addressing fisheries-related issues, as well as to maintain such network for long-term after the completion of the relevant project supporting the mechanism

Special Projects

(24) Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia

- SEAFDEC to communicate with the Government of Sweden requesting for the possible extension of the project after its completion in 2019
- SEAFDEC to promote the application of the SEAFDEC gender toolkit in Myanmar in 2019

- SEAFDEC to continue extending its support in strengthening the transboundary fisheries management in the upper Mekong River Basin between Lao PDR and Thailand (Bo Keo in Lao PDR and Chiang Rai in Thailand)
- SEAFDEC to discuss with the ASEAN Secretariat the possible submission of the results of the stock assessment and risk assessment of neritic tunas to concerned policy makers in the future
- SEAFDEC to sustain the activities on neritic tunas in order to obtain data that could serve as scientific basis towards the sustainable utilization of the species, considering that such work would complement the work of IOTC, and not duplicate any of the stock assessment initiatives of WCPFC

(25) The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans)

- USAID Ocean to establish appropriate channel for sharing of information particularly on the progress of its works in the project learning sites so that the developed technologies could be adopted by other countries
- USAID Ocean to respond to the suggestion of Thailand during the last ASWGF and the Oceans Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting in 2018 on how the information collected from the learning sites could be shared, and on how the activities in the expansion sites in Thailand could move forward
- USAID Oceans to provide information to Thailand on the exact schedule and detailed workplan in support of expansion I and II sites as indicated in the 2019 project workplan

The Program Committee endorsed the progress of the **Departmental Programs** in 2018 which comprise nine (9) programs, six (6) of which were implemented by AQD, namely: 1) Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture; 2) Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture; 3) Adaptation to Climate Change; 4) Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture; 5) Meeting Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture; and 6) Priority and Special Projects; and three (3) by TD, namely: 1) Promotion and Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Image; 2) Tailor-made Training Programs; and 3) Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing. While these programs would be continued in 2019, the program on “Promotion and Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Image” would be merged with the program “Tailor-made Training Programs” and the new program title starting 2019 would be “Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building.” In addition to these on-going programs, MFRDMD would implement in 2019, the Collaborative Research between Japan International Research Center for Agriculture Science (JIRCAS) and MFRDMD, while IFRDMD would carry out two (2) projects, namely: 1) Stock Assessment and Fish Production Potential of Inland Fisheries; and 2) Center of Excellence in Science and Technology on Inland Fisheries Management. The Program Committee then provided recommendations on these programs which could be summarized as follows:

1. Aquaculture Department

- AQD to share the relevant information and technologies developed through its programs to the Member Countries
- AQD to consider sharing the knowledge on aquaculture technology to the Member Countries especially on broodstock management of tiger shrimps, as well as establishing the mechanism for sharing of information with other AMSs
- AQD to consider including in its future studies the culture of ornamental fish species, *e.g.* koi carp, for the benefit of countries that import broodstock from Japan
- SEAFDEC to consider supporting the activities related to increasing the value added to products that make use of seaweeds as raw materials

2. Training Department

- TD to allocate funds and assist Cambodia in conducting surveys to investigate the impacts from gears to the fishery resources, such as trawlers using small mesh-size and rat-tail traps
- TD to provide support to Thailand in the implementation of the project “Promotion of Appropriate Technology and Practices of Fishing and Fishing Gear Engineering in Freshwater Area in Thailand”
- TD to provide technical support to Indonesia in the conduct of training on safety at sea *e.g.* basic safety for fishing vessels in accordance with IMO regulations, as well as training to change the use of fishing gears that had recently become illegal

- TD to continue supporting Malaysia in the conduct of fishing gear training
- TD to share the results of the proposed activity in 2019 on the improvement of the technology to enhance the sustainability of marine fishery resources, once available

3. Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

- The 41PCM noted the project proposal under the collaborative research between JIRCAS and MFRDMD which would be implemented in 2019

4. Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

- The 41PCM noted the two projects which would be implemented by IFRDMD in 2019

The Program Committee also considered and endorsed the **Other Program** on “Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam” which was implemented in 2018 and would be continued in 2019.

The Program Committee also took note of the status of the two (2) **Pipeline Projects**:

(1) Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to continue seeking support from JAIF for the implementation of this project

(2) Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

- MFRDMD to continue seeking support from JAIF and other potential donors to extend this project to Member Countries not involved in Phase I of the Project, *e.g.* Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam

The Program Committee noted the statements delivered by non-member governments and international/regional organizations, namely: the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBBP-IGO); the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF); the Gifu Prefectural Inland Fisheries Training Center in Japan; the Embassy of Sweden; and the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA).

The Program Committee took note of the proposal on the “Way Forward for Resolution and Plan of Actions on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020,” and noted that the proposal and the workplan would be discussed during the 21FCG/ASSP Meeting, after which it would be proposed to the 51st Meeting of SEAFDEC Council.

On the Update on JTF-VII, the Program Committee expressed the gratitude to the Government of Japan for its continued support to SEAFDEC, and requested SEAFDEC to consider drafting a Council Resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Member Countries to the Government of Japan and requesting for continued support through the JTF-VII. In this connection, SEAFDEC would reiterate the need to seek the countries’ appreciation to Japan, during the 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

The Program Committee took note of the draft SEAFDEC Gender Strategy which was developed in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council.

With regard to the draft “Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting,” the Program Committee suggested further improvement of the draft Procedures, *i.e.* for the decisions by individual Council Directors to be kept by the Secretariat and not disclosed, and more elaboration on the roles and restrictions of observers. The Program Committee also suggested that the Procedures once approved by the SEAFDEC Council should be made available in the SEAFDEC website.

On the “Capacity Development Workshop on Stock Status Assessment and Estimation of SDG Indicator 14.4.1: Fish Stocks Sustainability for the Asia and Pacific Region,” of which SEAFDEC was approached by FAO to serve as coordinator and to facilitate the arrangements, the Program Committee expressed the challenges encountered by the Member Countries in reporting the progress on SDG Indicator 14.4.1, and proposed that the activities related to this SDG Indicator should be conducted on an annual basis and adopted by the SEAFDEC Council.

The Program Committee was informed of the formation of the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) which would take place starting 1 April 2019. SFA will continue to uphold Singapore’s commitment to implement the MFRD programme, and the Marine Aquaculture Center (MAC) would be the Collaborating Centre to implement the MFRD programme. This matter would be proposed to the 51st meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

The Program Committee adopted the **Report of the 41st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee** for submission to the 51st Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and to the ASEAN through the 21st Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).

SEAFDEC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019
I. Program of Activities under FCG/ASSP Mechanism

| Strategy/Project Title | Lead Department | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|-----------------|------|------|
| Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region | | | |
| 1. Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries | TD | Y | Y |
| 2. Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities | TD | Y | Y |
| 3. Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia | TD | Y | Y |
| 4. Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia | IFRDMD | Y | Y |
| 5. Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia | IFRDMD | Y | Y |
| 6. Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management | MFRDMD | Y | N |
| 7. Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities | TD | Y | Y |
| 8. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand | TD | Y | Y |
| 9. Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia | TD | Y | Y |
| 10. Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region | TD | Y | Y |
| 11. Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region | MFRDMD | Y | Y |
| 12. Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region | MFRDMD | Y | Y |
| 13. Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia | SEC | Y | Y |
| 14. SEADFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II | SEC | Y | Y |
| 15. Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS ¹ | TD | N | Y |
| Strategy II :Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region | | | |
| 16. Environment-friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources | AQD | Y | Y |
| 17. Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management and the Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region | AQD | Y | Y |
| Strategy III :Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region | | | |
| 18. Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia – Biotoxins (ASP, AZA and BTX) and Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) in the ASEAN Region | MFRD | Y | Y |

¹ This project was approved in 2018 and will be implemented in 2019.

| Strategy/Project Title | Lead Department | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|-----------------|------|------|
| Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements | | | |
| 19. Cold Chain Management for Seafood | MFRD | Y | N |
| 20. Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products | MFRDMD | Y | Y |
| Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries | | | |
| 21. Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues | SEC | Y | Y |
| Strategy VI: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries | | | |
| 22. Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2 | TD | Y | Y |
| 23. Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries | SEC | Y | Y |
| Special Projects | | | |
| 24. Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia | SEC | Y | Y |
| 25. The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) | SEC | Y | Y |

II. Departmental Programs

| Project Title | Department | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|------------|------|------|
| 1. Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture | AQD | Y | Y |
| 2. Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture | AQD | Y | Y |
| 3. Maintaining Environmental Integrity Through Responsible Aquaculture | AQD | Y | Y |
| 4. Adapting to Climate change Impacts | AQD | Y | Y |
| 5. Meeting Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture | AQD | Y | Y |
| 6. Priority and Special Projects | AQD | Y | Y |
| 7. Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Image | TD | Y | Y* |
| 8. Tailor-made Training Programs | TD | Y | |
| 9. Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing | TD | Y | Y |
| 10. Collaboration Research between JIRCAS and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD | MFRDMD | N | Y |
| 11. Stock Assessment and Fish Production Potential of Inland Fisheries | IFRDMD | Y | Y |
| 12. Center of Excellence for Fisheries Management on Inland Waters | IFRDMD | Y | Y |

* In 2019, the "Tailor-made Training Programs" would be merged with the "Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Image" under the new title of "Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building"

III. Other Programs

| Project Title | Department | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|------------|------|------|
| 1. Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam | TD | Y | Y |

IV. Pipeline Projects

| Project Title | Lead Department | Period |
|---|-----------------|--------|
| 1. Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region | SEC | - |
| 2. Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management | MFRDMD | - |

Remarks

Y = Program/project implemented during the year

N = Program/project not implemented during the year

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

The Twenty-first Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or 21FCG/ASSP was convened in Langkawi, Malaysia from 8 to 9 November 2018 and was co-chaired by the representative from Thailand on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. Attended by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, and SEAFDEC Officials led by the Secretary-General, the 21FCG/ASSP discussed the programs and activities implemented by SEAFDEC in 2018 and those proposed for 2019 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism as endorsed by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its Forty-first Meeting (41PCM) in November 2018, the progress of other proposals implemented under the ASSP Framework, as well as the policy considerations on issues of importance to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Regarding the **“Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fiftieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twentieth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP),”** the 21FCG/ASSP discussed the actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council at its 50th Meeting and the FCG/ASSP at its 20th Meeting. On the need for SEAFDEC to negotiate with the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the inclusion of the results of discussions on fisheries issues during the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), it was noted that the FCG mechanism is already in place for discussions on fisheries related issues between SEAFDEC and ASEAN which are reported to the SOM-AMAF through ASWGFi. On the procedure for SEAFDEC to participate in the SOM-AMAF in case there are important issues to be raised, SEAFDEC should communicate with the ASEAN Secretariat requesting permission to attend the SOM-AMAF meeting and indicate the issues to be presented and discussed. With regards to the process of developing the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), an *ad hoc* Task Force to Conduct the Feasibility Study on the Development of the AGFP including its Terms of Reference has already been agreed. Although SEAFDEC is not included in the Task Force, SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations could still be invited to attend the discussions if necessary.

On the **“Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at Meetings of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries in 2018,”** the 21FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, particularly the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (26ASWGFi), the Special Senior Official Meeting of the 39th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM 39AMAF), the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting of the Fortieth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (PREP-SOM 40AMAF), and the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (40AMAF). Regarding the Policy Brief **“Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia,”** the 21FCG/ASSP noted the suggestion made during the SSOM 39AMAF to have the title of this document changed considering the sensitivity of the issue on human rights; and that the Prep-SOM 40AMAF tasked the ASWGFi to review the Policy Brief and submit a proposed revised title to the SOM-AMAF for consideration. This matter would be discussed at the ASWGFi Meeting in 2019.

For the **“FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2018-2019,”** the 21FCG/ASSP was informed on the FCG/ASSP projects which were reviewed by the 41PCM, comprising twenty-three (23) projects that have been categorized under the SEAFDEC Strategies, and two (2) Special Projects, as well as the recommendations made during the 41PCM. It was noted that two (2) projects were completed in 2018, while 22 projects would be continued in 2019, and one new project will be implemented starting in 2019. Moreover, two (2) Pipeline Projects, namely: 1) Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region; and 2) Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resource Management, were also noted

The 21FCG/ASSP noted the “**Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Fisheries Related Bodies**” and provided the following recommendations:

- **ASEAN Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the results of the Sixth and Seventh Meetings of the ASEAN Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS) held in 2018.
- **ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP noted the results of the Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) held in 2018.
- **ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of activities of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), including the results of the 8th ASA Meeting held in 2018, and the plan to conduct the 9th ASA Meeting in 2019. The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that Viet Nam would discuss with Thailand regarding the timing and arrangement of the next ASA Meeting which was proposed to be held back-to-back with the ASWGFi and AFCF Meetings.

With regards to the “**Policy Consideration on International Fisheries-related Issues,**” the 21FCG/ASSP provided the following recommendations:

- **Combating IUU Fishing**
 - For the “*Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain*” particularly on the results of the self-evaluation of the extent of implementation of the Guidelines by the respective countries, SEAFDEC should consider engaging independent assessors which could ensure the transparency of the evaluation process, and could also properly guide the AMSs on the aspects of the Guidelines that should be considered and implemented.
 - On the “*Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over,*” the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that SEAFDEC has developed a draft Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System, which is in the final process of submission to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration *ad referendum*. To enhance the utilization of the RFVR Database, the FCG/ASSP expressed the view that the objective of the Database should be clarified, *e.g.* to be able to confirm that fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database are considered illegal fishing vessels, then the RFVR would be useful to support the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).
 - On the “*ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS),*” the 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the electronic system of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) which is being pilot tested in Brunei Darussalam, and expansion to pilot sites in Viet Nam and Myanmar. The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that there are two traceability systems, *i.e.* the eACDS developed by SEAFDEC and the Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) developed by the USAID Oceans. Both systems were developed based on the same fundamental principles of the ACDS concept, but with different focus.
 - With regards to the “*Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures,*” while agreeing that the works of SEAFDEC on Port State Measures do not duplicate with those of FAO, the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that a network comprising focal points from the AMSs should be established to fast track the communication between and among countries to support the PSM implementation, and supported the plan of SEAFDEC to continue

organizing the training for inspectors to support the implementation of the PSMA in the future.

- On the “*Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)*,” the 21FCG/ASSP requested the countries that have not yet responded to the questionnaires on the progress made in the implementation of RPOA-Capacity, to send their accomplished questionnaires back to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by December 2018 in order that the results could be analyzed and reported to the forthcoming ASWGFi Meeting.

- **Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region**

- Regarding the “*Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (RPOA-Neritic Tunas)*,” the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that SEAFDEC could continue providing support to the AMSs to improve their capacity in managing their tuna resources, and to convey the results of their works to the relevant RFMOs. As for the Gulf of Thailand, issues on the management of neritic tunas should be discussed at the sub-regional forum for the Gulf of Thailand in order to formulate the sub-regional joint management plan of the species. For the South China Sea area, such area is beyond the mandate of SEAFDEC. As for the Andaman Sea, SEAFDEC can share the results of its works on neritic tunas with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) which has the management mandate in this sub-region.
- On the “*Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia*,” the Policy Guidelines for Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asian Region developed in 2018 was noted. To seek endorsement of the Policy Guidelines under the ASEAN Mechanism, SEAFDEC was requested to seek approval of the document by the Council *ad referendum*, and subsequently circulate the document to the 21FCG/ASSP countries’ head delegates and request comments for endorsement to the ASWGFi *ad referendum*. The FCG/ASSP focal points should be established in order that matters that require urgent consideration could be considered and endorsed by the FCG/ASSP *ad referendum*.
- On the “*Progress on the Establishment of an Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response System for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia*,” the ASEAN Secretariat requested that once the regional technical guidelines/mechanisms for early warning system for aquatic animal diseases is already available and approved by the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC should submit this to the FCG/ASSP for endorsement to ASWGFi.
- Under the “*Updates on the Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture*,” the official launching of the Database with the web address <http://afid.seafdec.org.ph/> was noted.

- **Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Seafood**

- With regards to the “*Progress on the Establishment of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood*,” the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that the Guidelines should be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council at its forthcoming meeting in 2019, and upon the approval of the SEAFDEC Council, the Guidelines would be circulated for endorsement by the FCG/ASSP focal points, and subsequently submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

- **CITES Issues**

- On the commercially exploited aquatic species that are of concern to the Southeast Asian region, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat will organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on the Proposal to CITES CoP18 to facilitate the development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated position.

Subsequently, the common/coordinated position once endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council will be submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

Under the “**Other Matters**, the 21FCG/ASSP took note of the proposal on “*Way Forward for Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020*,” which was developed in response to the directive of the SEAFDEC Council during its Fiftieth Meeting in March 2018. The proposed workplan, which includes a review of the progress in the implementation of the RES&POA 2020 and review of the contents of the RES&POA 2020, was also noted.

The Report of the 21FCG/ASSP was adopted on 9 November 2018.

ASEAN GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING THE ENTRY OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES INTO THE SUPPLY CHAIN

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ASEAN Member States (AMS) through sub-regional cooperation prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region. Apart from MCS, trade-related measures are important to combat IUU fishing. AMSs urgently to strengthen measures to exclude IUU fish and fishery products from the supply chain. In this regard, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in collaboration with SEAFDEC/Secretariat started the program in 2013 with funding support from JTF VI to formulate and to disseminate the “ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain”. Throughout several meetings involving all AMSs, experts from national and regional organizations, the ASEAN Guidelines was finally developed and endorsed up to ministerial level through the ASEAN protocol in 2014. As the ASEAN Guidelines was voluntary in nature, the Guidelines was implemented in AMSs according to the capacity of each AMSs.

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD continue to promote the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines. The status of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in AMSs were assessed based on self-evaluation by each AMSs. Consultative visits to eight (8) AMSs were performed by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in 2018. The countries visited are Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. SEAFDEC/MFRDMD compiled and summarized the feedback from the eight (8) AMSs on the current status of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in AMSs during consultative visits. Scores of self-evaluation on implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in AMSs were as follows: Cambodia, 84.8% of total score; Indonesia: 96.4% of total score; Lao PDR 60% of total score; Malaysia, 92.4% of total score; Myanmar, 94% of total score; Philippines, 96.4% of total score; Thailand, 94% of total score; and Viet Nam, 96.4% of total score. The self-evaluation scores for all AMSs will be compared to the score during the project terminal meeting in September 2019, to show progress of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines by AMSs. An interim report of the feedback and self-evaluation conducted on the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines was published in the first quarter of 2019.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the progress of the implementation of the Guidelines; and
- To provide comments and advice to the activities and the way forward.

PROGRESS OF REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over was endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2013, and supported by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Forth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34th AMAF). Subsequently, the Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2014 endorsed the proposed RFVR activities plan. In 2017, the “*Strategy and way forward on improvement, promotion and utilization of RFVR database for 24 meters in length and over*” was developed at the Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the RFVR. Since then, a number of activities have been implemented by SEAFDEC Training Department (TD).

Progress of implementation for RFVR-24 meters

The “Regional Meeting on the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a Management Tool toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN” was convened from 12 to 13 December 2018 at the SEAFDEC/TD, Samut Prakan, Thailand. The conclusion of information submission to RFVR Database since 2015 and agreement from the Meeting is shown below

- *Information submission and utilization by the AMSs to the database system of RFVR-24 meters*

Table 1. No. of the vessels provided by the AMSs into the RFVR-24 meters (2015-2018)

| No. of Vessels Reported by AMSs (Year) | BN | ID | MY | MM | PH | SG | TH | VN |
|--|----|--------|-----|--------|--------|-----|-----|--------|
| 2015 | 1 | N/A | 125 | 664 | 997 | N/A | 250 | 445 |
| 2016 | 1 | 380 | 332 | N/A | N/A | 1 | 402 | Coming |
| 2017 | 1 | 434 | N/A | 424 | 1007 | 1 | 420 | Coming |
| 2018 | 9 | Coming | 225 | Coming | Coming | 1 | 335 | Coming |

Remarks:

- Official letter to AMSs for updating information of the RFVR Database (dated 7 February 2018)
- Reminding for yearly update information of the RFVR database (dated 5 July 2018 via email)
- “Coming” refers to information has yet submitted by the respective countries
- “N/A” refers to information not submitted in that year

Table 1 shows that there is a trend of increasing numbers of fishing vessels in the RFVR-24 meters database for Indonesia whereas it is likely to decrease the number of fishing vessels in other countries. Thailand, for example, the decreasing number of fishing vessels may be due to the issuance of the ‘Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015)’ where the level of fishing efforts has been adjusted to match with the available fishery resources. For the update information from AMSs in 2018. There were 4 countries submit update information to RFVR Database namely, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

To monitor the usefulness of the RFVR database, information on the access to the database has been collected as one of the project activities as shown in **Table 2**. It shows that AMSs have made use of the RFVR database developed and maintained currently, particularly for Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

However, requirement of more username and password for access to RFVR Database from Member Countries unlimited. Member Countries can request SEAFDEC to provide User ID and password for distribution to relevant agency who utilize RFVR database.

Table 2. No. of access to the RFVR-24 meters (2015-2018)

| Country | No. of Accounts | No. of Registers | Accumulated no. of access from 2015-2018 |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Brunei Darussalam | 14 | 4 | 9 |
| Cambodia | 14 | 2 | 3 |
| Indonesia | 14 | 1 | 2 |
| Lao PDR | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| Malaysia | 15 | 8 | 51 |
| Myanmar | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Philippines | 14 | 1 | 10 |
| Singapore | 14 | 3 | 14 |
| Thailand | 15 | 3 | 30 |
| Viet Nam | 14 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 138 | 23 | 123 |

- Submission/Updating of RFVR Database*

AMSs agreed to follow up the preparation schedule by SEAFDEC whenever they need to send a reminding letter to each member country, usually one month before updating. The agreement of member country representatives was shown below:

| No. | Country | Frequency | Schedule |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Brunei Darussalam | Agreed two times per year | January and October |
| 2. | Indonesia | | January and July |
| 3. | Malaysia | | January and July |
| 4. | Myanmar | | April and November |
| 5. | Philippines | | April and October |
| 6. | Singapore | | January and July |
| 7. | Thailand | | April and October |
| 8. | Viet Nam | | April and October |

Furthermore, the procedures to request for submission could be prepared as standard operating procedure. The National Focal Point should be appointed from each Member Countries.

- Initiation on Development of RFVR Less than 24 Meters in Length*

Discussions on the development of regional RFVR database for the vessel size less than 24 meters in length were undertaken and agreed during the Forty-first Program Committee Meeting of SEAFDEC held in November 2018 and The RFVR Meeting in December 2018. The RFVR Meeting also discussed that the range of vessel size from 18 meters to 23.99 meters in length is most appropriate for reducing IUU fishing in the region.

For further follow-up, SEAFDEC continues its efforts to secure funds in 2020, as estimated budget was already allocated for the year 2020's activity plan. The activities for RFVR database less than 24 meters in length will start in 2020. Moreover, with support of FAO, detailed discussions on regional initiative to develop RFVR database for the vessels size less than 24 meters will be undertaken as a side event during the FAO's 5th Meeting of GRWG (Global Record) during 13-14 May 2019 (Seoul, Republic of Korea).

Progress on Development of Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System

With the reference from the comments made by some of SEAFDEC Member Countries, the revised version of the Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System was initially submitted to the Council on 21 January 2019 for the endorsement as *ad referendum*. With regard to additional comment from the Council for Thailand (letter dated 25 February 2019), the Secretariat revised the document accordingly as appeared in the **Appendix 1** for consideration and endorsement by the 51st Council.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- The Meeting is requested to take note the progress of the regional initiatives on RFVR-24 meters database, as well as to provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on the implementation of this activity, as well as to enhance future usage of the RFVR database by the AMSs.
- The Meeting is requested to take note on the revision of the “Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System”. The Meeting may wish to also provide further directives on this matter, and endorse the document.

Revised Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System by Non-AMSs

I. BACKGROUND

The Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) Database System for vessels 24 meters in length and over (RFVR-24m Database) is an online system, established with the collaboration of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Program “Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities” implemented from 2011 to 2019 with funding support from the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF). The concept proposal to establish the RFVR for 24 meters in length and over, was presented to and approved by the SEAFDEC Council during its 45th Meeting in April 2013 in the Philippines, and subsequently supported by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34th AMAF), to be used as a management tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. From the series of experts’ consultations, a principal agreement was reached by the AMSs on the list of 28 basic data and information on fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over that would be shared through the RFVR-24m Database. In principle, the corresponding RFVR-24m Database which is managed by the SEAFDEC Training Department, is shared by all AMSs including Cambodia and Lao PDR even if these two countries do not have vessels measuring 24 meters in length and over.

Sharing of the information in the RFVR-24m Database with the (i) non-AMS members of the RPOA-IUU *i.e.* Australia, PNG and Timor Leste; and (ii) relevant RFMOs was raised during the 48th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2016, where some concerns were expressed about sharing of the information in the RFVR-24m Database with non-AMSs. In order to address such concerns, it was therefore suggested that a mechanism should be developed to allow (i) non-AMS members of the RPOA-IUU *i.e.* Australia, PNG and Timor Leste; and (ii) relevant RFMOs access to the RFVR-24m Database. Moreover, it was also suggested that the reasons for such a request should be considered while the same security measures for accessing the RFVR-24m Database by the AMSs, should be applied with the authorized non-AMSs by providing them with the corresponding security password.

While agreeing in principle, that the RFVR-24m Database could be shared with non-AMSs under the RPOA-IUU, the SEAFDEC Council requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to seek approval from the ASEAN on this matter. At the 24th Meeting of the ASWGF, SEAFDEC raised the relevant recommendations that were made during the 48th Meeting of the Council, specifically on the proposed sharing of the RFVR-24m Database with non-AMSs. After discussions, the 24ASWGF agreed in principle on the proposed sharing of the RFVR-24m Database with non-AMSs on condition that the guidelines or protocol for data sharing should be developed and put in place, *e.g.* specifying the level of authority to grant an approval for data sharing, and assuring the security of the data.

SEAFDEC therefore developed the protocol for accessing the RFVR-24m Database by RPOA-IUU Member Countries, which are not SEAFDEC Member Countries, *i.e.* Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROTOCOL

The development of this Protocol is meant to:

- a) provide a guidance for sharing of the confidential RFVR data with selected non-AMSs, *i.e.* other members of the RPOA-IUU;
- b) assure that data security is maintained; and
- c) enhance the utilization of RFVR-24m Database by non-AMSs, especially in examining any AMS-flagged fishing vessels that may have possibly been engaged in IUU fishing.

III. EXPLANATION

For the purpose of the RFVR-24m Database that the following definitions entail:

- a) **non-AMSs** refers to in this initial proposed Protocol, are the RPOA-IUU member countries which are not SEAFDEC Member Countries, *i.e.* Australia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste
- b) **RFVR Data** refers to the 28 key data elements for fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over, that are provided by the AMSs in the RFVR-24m Database (**Template 1**)
- c) **Fishing vessels** that are not in the RFVR-24m Database should only be identified as IUU fishing vessels if a flag State had investigated and found evidence that such vessels have been engaged in IUU fishing activities.
- d) **Protocol** refers to the set of procedures and guidelines for accessing the RFVR-24m Database and for observing the confidentiality of the data. This initial proposed Protocol targets only the RPOA-IUU Member Countries which are not SEAFDEC Member Countries. This Protocol should not be used as substitute for formal legal advice that would be obtained where necessary. As the vessel not listed in the RFVR should not be treated as an IUU fishing vessel until evidence is shown to prove otherwise, non-AMSs and relevant RFMOs shall initially approach the flag State directly (if the flag is known) or SEAFDEC if the flag State is unknown, then SEAFDEC shall seek confirmation from the concerned AMSs and update the RFVR database accordingly.

IV. THE PROTOCOL FOR ACCESSING THE RFVR-24M DATABASE AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF RFVR DATA FOR NON-AMSS

- i. Request from non-AMS for access to the RFVR-24m Database should be sent to the SEAFDEC Secretary-General;
- ii. A Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the requesting non-AMS country in item (i) with the SEAFDEC Secretary-General shall be prepared. Details of the information to be shared with the requesting country for access to the RFVR-24m Database shall be clearly defined in the LOA. The letter will spell out that the information in the RFVR 24m- Database is confidential and that the information cannot be shared with a 3rd party without prior consent from the AMS/SEAFDEC.;
- iii. Once the LOA has been signed, SEAFDEC will issue the requesting country user names and passwords to the requesting country
- iv. The requesting country must share their respective fishing vessels data of 24 meters in length and over¹, with the RFVR-24m Database within two (2) months, and must update the relevant data twice a year, the same as the conditions for AMSs²; and
- v. Failure to comply with the above protocol, including sharing information from the database with a 3rd party without prior consent from the AMS/SEAFDEC, will result in termination of access to the RFVR 24m-Database

V. CANCELLATION AND REINSTATEMENT OF ACCESS THE RFVR-24M DATABASE

- i. Failure to comply with the protocol in item (4) would lead to immediate termination of access to the RFVR-24m Database;
- ii. SEAFDEC will report the termination of access to SEAFDEC Council; and
- iii. Should the non-AMS wish to reinstate its access to the RFVR-24m database, it would need to send its request in writing to the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, who would only reinstate its access following SEAFDEC Council's approval.

¹ The revisions based on comment received from the Council for Thailand on 25 February 2019

Template 1: Key Data Elements to be shared with the RFVR-24m Database (for vessels measuring 24 meters in length and over)

| Information on fishing vessels | Information on fishing vessels |
|---|--|
| Name of Vessel | International Radio Call sign |
| Vessel Registration Number | Engine Brand |
| Owner Name | Serial Number of Engine |
| Type of Fishing Method/Gear | Hull Material |
| Fishing License Number | Date of Registration |
| Expiration Date of Fishing Licenses | Area (country) of Fishing Operation |
| Port of Registry | Nationality of Vessel (flag) |
| Gross Tonnage (GRT/GT) | Previous Name (if any) |
| Length (L) | Previous Flag (if any) |
| Breadth (B) | Name of Captain/Master (if available) |
| Depth (D) | Nationality of Captain/Master (if available) |
| Engine Power | Number of Crew (maximum/minimum) |
| Shipyard/Ship Builder | Nationality of Crew (if available) |
| Date of launching/Year of Built/ Year of Purchase | IMO Number (If any) |

Annex 11

CONTINUING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) is one of the regional initiatives between SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) for improving the traceability system for marine capture fisheries, and aiming to prevent the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain. Since 2014 till 2017, five (5) Technical Consultation and expert meetings have been organized for deliberation on the concept of ACDS. Finally, the ACDS was endorsed at the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (25ASWGFi) in May 2017 in Singapore. Later the document was also adopted by the SOM-AMAF in the same year. To support the implementation of the ACDS, the electronic system is required taking into consideration the guidance from the SEAFDEC Councils that the process should not create unnecessary burden, cost or lengthy process for all supply chain, importers/exporters.

SEAFDEC initiated electronic ACDS (eACDS) implementation in Brunei Darussalam as pilot testing of the ACDS since 2016. The introduction of overall system of eACDS was launched during the Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in June 2017.

Since the pilot testing of the eACDS was launched, the series of consultation and on-site training on the use of eACDS by all relevant Stakeholders were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam. Recently, the eACDS system is still in the process of the testing, including activities updating system and application design to solve some problems as appeared in the **Appendix 1**. The plan to conduct evaluation of the eACDS implementation is scheduled in 2019. Moreover, regards to request from Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Malaysia at the SEAFDEC Meeting, the eACDS implementation is now expanding in collaboration with the respective countries.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- The Council is requested to take note the progress on development of the electronic system of the eACDS for pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam and also the site expansion for Myanmar, Viet Nam and Malaysia, and
- The Council is invited to provide advice to promote the application of ACDS to combat IUU fishing and enhance intra-regional and international trade in fish and fishery product.

Promotion of ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme in Southeast Asia

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the requirement of SEAFDEC Member Countries in complying with the requirements of the EC Regulation 1005/2008 since January 2010, the 13th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in December 2010 in Thailand suggested SEAFDEC Secretariat to take a proactive role in facilitating the sharing of experiences and information among the Member Countries in order to enhance the country's capacity and efforts to deal with all future market driven measures that would impact to the fisheries sectors particularly economic and social aspects in the Southeast Asian region. In response to this SEAFDEC proposed the development of the common regional catch documentation scheme with aims to ensure that the traceability of capture fisheries is improved to meet the requirements and to reduce such impacts from market measures. Later, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) expressed their support on improving the traceability for capture fisheries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries for food security toward 2020 as guided in the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. In connection to this, the development of common regional catch documentation scheme herein after called "ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) to enhance the intra-regional and international trade was supported at the SSOM-AMAF in 2013.

The development of the ACDS concept was initiated by SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with MFRDMD and experts/fisheries managers from SEAFDEC Member Countries with the support from Japanese Trust Funds since 2014. One expert group meeting and one Technical consultation meeting were convened in October and December, 2014 for the 1st Draft of ACDS, respectively. Another expert meeting convened in 2015 for finalizing the draft ACDS, was also organized in accordance with the recommendations made by the 47th SEAFDEC Council Meeting. The results from three meetings in 2014 and 2015 could come up with the final draft ACDS Concept and draft info-graphic on usage of ACDS for 18 scenarios of catch/trade flows into and or among the AMS in the region. To ensure that ACDS are applicable and benefit to the relevant stakeholders namely operators of fishing vessels, suppliers, seafood processors for export and traders who export and transship, SEAFDEC convened the Stakeholder Consultations in March 2016 with aims to introduce the concept and compile their views for further development of the appropriate system of ACDS for both electronic and manual system to cover all requirements of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. SEAFDEC is recommended to develop the electronic system of ACDS that should be included not only commercial fisheries but also considering to support small-scale fishers. In addition, at the 49th meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, the Council suggested that the eACDS should be developed in harmonization with other existing catch documentation schemes to ensure that this would be acceptable to the EU and US Presidential Task Force, and thus, enhance trading of fish and fishery products from the Southeast Asian region, while the Council endorsed Brunei Darussalam as a pilot testing country for the eACDS. In connection to this, the ACDS concept was also endorsed by the 25th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) in May 2017 in Singapore. Later the Concept was also adopted by the 39th AMAF Meeting in the same year. SEAFDEC initiated eACDS implementation in Brunei Darussalam as pilot testing of the ACDS since 2016. The introduction of overall system of eACDS was launched by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam, *Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin*, during the Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in June 2017.

II. PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEM of ASEAN CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (eACDS) IN AMS

Brunei Darussalam

Since the pilot testing of the eACDS was launched in Brunei Darussalam in June 2017. The series of consultation and on-site training on the use of eACDS by all relevant Stakeholders were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam. According the testing of eACDS Database and application by Brunei Darussalam relevant stakeholder, the Database and application was developed and updated to fix the system and design problem. Presently, the system can issue forth Catch Certification (CC). In this regard, the re-training on the use of eACDS was organized from 28-29 January

2019 in Brunei Darussalam for relevant agencies and stakeholder. The evaluation and monitoring through impact assessment on eACDS system implementation is also planned to conduct in 2nd quarter of 2019.

Viet Nam

The representative from Viet Nam proposed in the Fortieth Meeting of the Program Committee (40PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) which held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2017 that SEAFDEC could also support Viet Nam in the development of a system to apply the eACDS for marine fishery products. To follow up this proposed, the introduction on eACDS system was conducted for all relevant stakeholder and Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) in Viet Nam in December 2017. Moreover, the visit and discussion on initial planning and cooperation with D-Fish for eACDS implementation through preparation of Key Data Element for eACDS database development and selection of pilot area was conducted from 12-13 September 2018. The visit and observation of pilot site in Binh Thuan and Khanh Hau Province including discussion with relevant stakeholder was conducted from 19-22 December 2018.

Myanmar

According to the 50th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in March 2018, the Council Director for Myanmar looked forward to cooperating with SEAFDEC in strengthening regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing by supporting the implementation of the eACDS at the national level. To follow up this cooperation, the introduction on eACDS system was conducted for all relevant stakeholder and the Department of Fisheries, Myanmar in June 2018 and the visit and discussion on initial planning and cooperation with DOF, Myanmar for eACDS implementation through preparation of Key Data Element for eACDS database development and selection of pilot area was conducted from 25-28 September 2018. Moreover, collection and discussion more information for Key Data Elements (KDEs) and preparation of data for development eACDS system in Myanmar thgour confirmation of focal points for eACDS activities at the central office and pilot sites was conducted from 4-7 February 2019.

Malaysia

Refer to the 41st Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC in November 2018, the Program Committee Member for Malaysia requested to implement eACDS in Malaysia as one of the project site in 2019. According to follow up this request, SEAFDEC contacted and received for focal point of eACDS in DOF, Headquater and plan to introduction eACDS and visit pilot site in Selangor and Kelantan as proposed by Malaysia in 2nd quarter of this year.

PROGRESS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PORT STATE MEASURES

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Referring to the adopted International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) in 2001, in which the requirement for Port State Measures (PSM) is included. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has worked on the PSM to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing including identifying the needs for human resources development to promote the implementation of PSM as minimum standards, and published a “FAO Voluntary Model Scheme on Port State Measures” in 2004 to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Subsequently, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 12/2009, approving the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as a legally binding instrument in 2009. The main objective of the PSM Agreement is to “prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through ports”. In this connection, Port State needs to take the action on restriction of entry into port, use of port, access to port services, in addition, the inspection and other enforcement activities are also mentioned in the agreement.

Taking into account the importance of seafood products from Southeast Asian to around the world market, trade in and out are one of the important activities. To avoid any impact on trade as well as preventing the entry of IUU fish and fishery products either from international or intra-regional trade, the implementation of PSM is therefore needed taking into accounts other existing regional management tools developed under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaborative Framework such as ASEAN Catch Documentations, database of Regional Fishing Vessel Records for the vessels 24 meters and over (RFVR-24m) in length, ASEAN Guidelines to prevent the entry of IUU products into the supply chain, etc.

Refer to the Forty-eight Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, the Concept Proposal on Regional Cooperation for Supporting the Implementation of Port State Measures in ASEAN Region was raised up at the Meeting. According to this, SEAFDEC in collaboration with partners organized the Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia in 2016. The Workshop came up with “Actions needed and priority activities for regional cooperation to support the implementation of the Port State Measures” which emphasized on capacity building to support implementation of PSM and gap analysis on law and regulation to support implementation of the Agreement on Port States Measures (PSMA).

Moreover, the Fiftieth SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2018 suggested, recommended, and requested for regional cooperation to support the implementation and capacity building of the PSM in ASEAN region in collaboration with other partners, establishment of networks for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM implementation, gap analysis of the legal frameworks of the countries and a needs assessment.

Follow-up the progress activities to support implementation on PSM in the region, FAO has designed and developed the networks database for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM “Port-Lex”. The Database on Port State Measures (Port-Lex) provides access to PSM adopted by States to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Information can be accessed through a simple word search or advanced search using country names or measure components. Moreover, FAO undertook a PSMA and related international instruments gap analysis on legal frameworks under FAO global program in Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Cambodia. To avoid duplication of implementation activities, SEAFDEC will monitor the progress of such activities in close collaboration with the FAO, as well as to provide technical inputs if necessary to support the concerned AMSs. Moreover, SEAFDEC continued to strengthen capacity building activities to support implementation of PSM in coordination with other international agencies and partners as appears in the **Appendix 1**.



II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

- To take note on the progress of work undertaken by SEAFDEC.
- To provide advice on required support from SEAFDEC (in collaboration with other organizations) to strengthen implementation of PSM in the ASEAN.

Promotion on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures

I. INTRODUCTION

Refers to the adopted International Plan of Action to prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) in 2001, in which the requirement for Port State Measures (PSM) is included. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has worked on the PSM to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing including identifying the needs for human resources development to implement PSM while developed as minimum standards - a "FAO Voluntary Model Scheme on Port State Measures" to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in 2004. Later, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 12/2009 approving the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as a legally binding instrument in 2009. The Objective of the PSM Agreement is to "prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through ports". Port State needs to take the action on restriction of entry into port, use of port, access to port services, in addition the inspection and other enforcement activities are also mentioned in the agreement. Taking into account the importance of seafood products from Southeast Asian to around the world market, trade in and out are ones of the important activities. To avoid any impact on trade as well as preventing the entry of IUU fish and fishery products either from international or intra-regional trade, the implementation of PSM is therefore needed taking into accounts other existing regional management tools developed under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaborative Framework such as ASEAN Catch Documentations, RFVR-24m in length, ASEAN Guidelines to prevent the entry of IUU products into the supply chain, *etc.* Implementation of Port State Measures required inter-agency as well as regional and international cooperation. There are several action needed as mentioned in the provisions in which port State need to consider their legal instruments to compile with PSM. Based on the technical consultations on implementation of PSM by ASEAN Member States (AMSs), the results showed that many AMSs are still inadequate of the human capacity to implement the PSM, while many foreign vessels not only from outside the ASEAN region such as high-sea or Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) areas but also vessels among the AMSs. In 2015, SEAFDEC therefore proposed the regional approaches to support the implementation the PSM in and effective management through the harmonization and cooperation among AMS.

II. PROGRESS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION ON PSM

Refer to the Forty-eight Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, the Concept Proposal on Regional Cooperation for Supporting the Implementation of Port State Measures in ASEAN Region was raised up at the Meeting. According to this, SEAFDEC in collaboration with partners organized the Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia in 2016. The Workshop came up with "Actions, need and priority activities for regional cooperation to support the implementation of the Port State Measures" which emphasized as follows: 1) Capacity building to support implementation of PSM, 2) gap analysis on law and regulation to support implementation of PSMA, and 3) Standard of operation for vessel inspection at port for PSM activities.

Moreover, the Fiftieth SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2018 suggested, recommended, and requested on regional cooperation to support the implementation of the PSM in ASEAN region as follows;

- Capacity building, especially in the aspects of training on PSM implementation (in general) and on port inspection to support PSM implementation in collaboration with other partners;
- Establishment of networks for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM implementation;
- Analysis of gaps in the respective legal frameworks of the countries and a needs assessment; and
- SEAFDEC should coordinate closely with FAO in addressing the requirements of particular AMS since its support is meant not only to the countries that ratified, but also to those that are yet to ratify the PSMA.

According to above mentioned, the activities has been implemented by SEAFDEC and other agencies as follows;

1) Capacity building to support implementation of PSM in the region

SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO, NOAA and USAID-RDMA organized “The regional training on PSAM implementation in Southeast Asia for fishery manager” in February 2018. The resource persons were supported by FAO, NOAA and the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. This training was focused on: 1) preparation of national legal aspects, policy and institutional of PSM implementation, 2) PSMA inspection of vessels, and 3) lessons learned on PSM implementation in Thailand. Moreover, SEAFDEC plan to organize “The training course on vessels inspection for PSM activities” next year. Presently, SEAFDEC is in process of discussion and negotiation with NOAA and USAID-RDMA in collaboration to organize this training course.

Moreover, in “The Part 6 Working Group Established by the Parties to the Agreement on PSMA” from 5-6 July 2018 in Rome, Italy and also during COFI meeting in 2018 in Rome, SEAFDEC discuss with FAO and other international agencies on PSM activities in the region with conducted by SEAFDEC through finding cooperation with other international agencies to support implementation of PSM in the region

2) Establishment of networks for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM implementation

FAO designed and developed the networks database for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM namely “Port-Lex”. The Database on Port State Measures (Port-Lex) provides access to PSM) adopted by states to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Information can be accessed through a simple word search or advanced search using country names or measure components. For more information, please visit <http://www.fao.org/fishery/psm/search/en>.

3) Analysis of gaps in the respective the legal frameworks of the countries and a needs assessment

FAO undertook a PSMA and related international instruments gap analysis on legal frameworks under FAO global program in Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Cambodia.

In this response, to avoid duplication of activities under support on implementation of PSM, SEAFDEC will not conduct activities that conducted by FAO and other international agencies. However, SEAFDEC will facilitate AMS to coordinate with other international agencies in their responsible activities as AMS requested. Moreover, SEAFDEC will continue to strengthen capacity building activities to support implementation of PSM in coordination with other international agencies.

REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY (RPOA-CAPACITY)

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia as lead country for the cluster “Promoting Sustainable Practice: Fishing Capacity and Responsible Fisheries Practices” worked with SEAFDEC to develop an approach to support regional cooperation on management of fishing capacity for the ASEAN Region. As a result, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) was formulated by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the ASEAN Member States. The final draft of the RPOA-Capacity was reviewed and endorsed during the 48th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, then submitted for endorsement of the 24th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in June 2016, and adoption by the 38th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Fisheries (AMAF) in October 2016. The RPOA-Capacity has been used as guide for the AMSs in their efforts towards the sustainable utilization of fishery resources in their respective waters.

Progress of RPOA-Capacity Implementation in AMSs

With the aim to monitor the progress in implementing the RPOA-Capacity in the AMSs, SEAFDEC requested the MCs for providing information on the implementation progress of the RPOA-Capacity by using a questionnaire survey (May 2018). At the 21FCG/ASSP Meeting in 2018, the Meeting took note on: (i) the preliminary results (**Appendix 1**) from the feedback¹ of the questionnaire from the AMSs on the progress of national implementation on RPOA-Capacity; (ii) progress of the proposed funding to support assessment of the progress for implementation of the RPOA-Capacity by SEAFDEC MFRDMD to ASEAN Secretariat. In addition, the SEAFDEC also proposed for consideration by the 21FCG/ASSP Meeting to support the establishment of a permanent technical/policy coordination unit on management of fishing capacity (RPOA-Capacity Secretariat). As a result, the 21FCG/ASSP viewed that more detailed information would be necessary and the terms of reference for the RPOA-Capacity Secretariat should be developed prior to undertaking further discussions with the AMSs on this matter.

Future Program

The rapidly growing fisheries industry in Southeast Asia since late 1970s has led to increased fishing capacity, especially with the introduction of highly efficient fishing gears such as trawlers and later on the purse seiners, as well as to the increasing capacities of processing plants. Promotion of the surimi industry in the region is one of the examples that significantly increased the capacities of processing industries, while increasing amounts of fish as raw materials are required to supply these processing industries. The fishing areas since the 1970s have been largely expanded to cover international waters particularly the South China Sea and towards the offshore areas of the Southeast Asian countries. The Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZs), which used to be only 12 nautical miles from shore and increased to 200 nautical miles after the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982, has created significant impacts in many Southeast Asian countries. The expansion of EEZs to 200 nautical miles without effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and fisheries management schemes was considered as one of the primary reasons that drives the fishing industries to operate illegal fishing activities, later identified as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the EEZs of neighboring countries.

There could be many forms of IUU fishing activities but among the major forms are unlicensed fishing, landing of fish in neighbouring states, using double flags, and use of illegal fishing gears and practices, among others. In this connection, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in collaboration with Malaysia and other AMSs is

¹ The countries that provided feedbacks to the questionnaire included: Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore (**Appendix 2.1 and Appendix 2.2**). The 21FCG/ASSP Meeting encouraged the countries who has not yet sent their accomplished questionnaires to submit the feedback by the end of 2018. To date (26 February 2019), there is no additional response from the countries on this concern to the Secretariat.

now preparing to propose a new project, the title: *Implementation and Assessment of Fishing Capacity and Zoning System for Southeast Asia*, proposing the financial support from Japan ASEAN Integrated Fund through ASEAN Secretariat. Objectives of this new project area) to engage with regional and international processes to enhance ASEAN cooperation to improve the governance of trans-boundary fishing to improve the regulation and control of fishing vessels, b) to examine and improve policy settings as necessary to ensure that they do not distort incentives for output increases and new technology adoption while ensuring that they incorporate fully the value of environmental assets and costs of resource depletion. This project will run for 2 years, with the total cost estimated at USD 285,000.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note on the progress of implementation the RPOA-Capacity in AMSs, as well as the future program to support its implementation in AMSs. The Council is also invited to provide advice and comments for effective implementation of the RPOA-Capacity.

Progress of AMSs in Implementing RPOA-Capacity by AMSs

Under the SEAFDEC-Sweden collaborative project, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) was developed and subsequently endorsed by ASEAN. SEAFDEC has encouraged and provided its supports to the Member Countries (MCs) in the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity through bilateral dialogues and sub-regional and regional technical consultations. In May 2018, SEAFDEC requested the MCs for providing information on the implementation progress of the RPOA-Capacity by using a questionnaire survey. This paper presents the summary results from feedbacks of the MCs.

The questionnaires contain two (2) major topics, namely (i) national activities in support of the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity and (ii) lessons learnt by the MCs in managing fishing capacity. Based on the feedback from the MCs, the common issues are summarized as follows:

I. National Activities/Actions in Support of the Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

A number of relevant activities/programs under the framework of the RPOA-Capacity has been carried out by some MCs. The objectives of such activities are to:

1. Develop/review the National Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity (NPOA-Capacity), fisheries subsidies and incentives with reference to the RPOA-Capacity
2. Reform/review the national legislation and legal framework, and the development of fisheries improvement program to strengthen the effective management of fishing capacity
3. Strengthen the interagency coordination for sharing information
4. Strengthen the interagency coordination for the effective implementation of MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) program
5. Implement public awareness programs on sustainable fisheries through the management of fishing capacity using Information, Education and Communication Programs (IEC)
6. Support activities implementing under the framework of RPOA-Capacity, including
 - Establishment/development of:
 - Scientific Working Group/Committee (policy and technical)
 - National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI)
 - National database system for the management of fishing capacity (fishing vessels and fishing gears)
 - SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for data collection
 - National Monitoring Program (*e.g.* using fishermen's eyes and ears)
 - Mechanism for the continuous participation of stakeholders in monitoring and reporting encroachment into reserved and protected areas
 - Traceability system through the development of Catch Certification System
 - Continuation of data collection on fishing capacity (*e.g.* no. of fishing vessels, renewal of fishing license, fisheries resources survey, etc.) to update information
 - Continuation of communication with relevant organizations as required and relevant, as well as active cooperation with relevant regional organizations/efforts in assessing the status of shared migratory stocks with an aim to be able to balance fishing effort with availability of resources
 - Continuation to enhance/build capacity to increase technical expertise at national level:
 - To assess fishing capacity
 - To enforce laws and regulations (*e.g.* port State inspectors)
 - For fishery managers and researchers to enhance their skills, capabilities and competencies
 - For fishers to improve skills in support of the development of programs including Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
 - Reduction of fishing capacity based on the results from the scientific findings to balance fishing effort with available resources

- Regularly engage:
 - Local fishers on their fishing operations regarding public awareness program
 - Relevant stakeholders to participate in resources management activities
 - Relevant traders/stakeholders:
 - In awareness building program on sustainable fisheries
 - To ensure compliance to the RFMOs (Regional Fisheries Management Organizations) as applicable to the ASEAN region and sub-regions
 - Politicians to be provided with frequent briefing sessions, and to increase awareness

II. Lessons Learnt by the MCs in Managing Fishing Capacity

With the reference to the activities implemented under the framework of the RPOA-Capacity, the lessons learnt from the MCs are as follow:

1. Fisheries stock assessment and fisheries management plan will increase a transparency of the policy implementation by the participation of relevant stakeholders
2. Better understanding on the current status of fishing capacity supports policy recommendations that can be developed
3. Precautionary approach can be used as a basis for policy decision
4. Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure a continuity of the assessment activities
5. Political will is needed to ensure available resources to conduct regular monitoring, information sharing and evaluation on the status of fisheries resources
6. Improvement of fishing gear technology will increase resource sustainability in ways that are efficient, more economical while at the same time be environment-friendly
7. Database or records of fishing activities together with the sharing of information can be used for improved management of fisheries resources
8. Communications and/or information materials are effective tools to educate or build awareness among stakeholders

Based on the experiences and lessons learnt from MCs on implementation of RPOA-Capacity, as well as to provide a platform for continued support and coordination from SEAFDEC (and others) in facilitating dialogue and information sharing through existing bilateral, sub-regional and regional arrangements aiming at strengthening cooperation for effectively management of fishing capacity in the region, SEAFDEC would like to request the Meeting to support the establishment of a permanent technical/policy coordination unit on management of fishing capacity (RPOA-Capacity Secretariat). The coordination unit/secretariat would facilitate reporting and information sharing on the implementation at sub-regional level, such as ongoing initiative on MCS network in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea as well as in other sub-regions such as the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and Arafura-Timor Sea. Details and practical aspects for such an arrangement shall be further discussed at appropriate events in the near future.

Questionnaire B: Member Countries Activities in Support of the Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Policy and legal framework in managing fishing capacity: ineffective policies, legal framework in managing fishing capacity

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| Decisions inconsistent with current policies | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Fish Stock Committee Established (2017) → all decisions are consistent with the <u>current policies and fishing effort is commensurate with national fisheries resource status</u> 2. NPOA- Capacity established (2007) and reviewed (2014) 3. Identify gaps and issues in the legal framework (ongoing) | Reform Thailand's marine fisheries into limited access regime via Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | Singapore is undergoing a legislative review of the Fisheries Act (to be completed in 2020) |
| Lack of political will and awareness towards conservation and fisheries | <p>(All are ongoing)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use official platforms as a way to increase awareness among high level authorities (e.g. AMAF) 2. Organize frequent briefing session with politicians 3. Provide updated and sufficient information 4. Building capacity and institutions in all level of governance 5. Develop coordination and partnerships among stakeholders 6. Facilitate community training skills and development program 7. Encourage stakeholder's active participation in resources management activities 8. Implement public awareness programs on sustainable fisheries through management of fishing capacity | Reform Thailand's marine fisheries into limited access regime via Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | Singapore is undergoing a legislative review of the Fisheries Act (to be completed in 2020) |

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| Subsidies vs incentives | National policy matter under the purview of Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry (in progress) | Reform Thailand's marine fisheries into limited access regime via Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | Singapore is undergoing a legislative review of the Fisheries Act (to be completed in 2020) |

Information for fishing capacity management (vessels, gears, and fishers): insufficient information for fishing capacity management

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| Data on concerned fishing capacity (<i>e.g.</i> no. of fishing boats, gears, fishers) Incomplete information on gear specification and documentation (<i>e.g.</i> length of fishing gear) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A complete database system on fishing capacity management (eLicense and Malaysia Fishing Vessel Record) established 2. Developing Fisheries Management Plan that manages the fishing capacity 3. Developing fishing gear specifications to be incorporated into the conditions of licence. | Strengthen capacity to sustainably manage the fisheries via FMP and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | Continue to collect data on fishing vessels, fishing gears, and fisheries as part of the annual renewal of fishing vessel and fishing gear licenses (ongoing) |

Information for fishing capacity management (fishery resources): inadequate data and information on fishery resources

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| Lack of policies/systems to deal with fisheries management in data-poor situation | (All are ongoing) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct regular fishery resources monitoring program and fishery resources survey 2. Strengthening of SOP (feasible and effective method) for data collection 3. Identify gaps through the development of Malaysia Fisheries Management Plan (Fisheries Management Index) | FMP and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | Continue to consult and engage relevant organizations as required and relevant (ongoing) |
| Lack of expertise to assess fishing | 1. Conduct capacity building program for fisheries managers and researchers to enhance | FMP and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | 1. Continue to consult and engage relevant organizations as required and relevant |

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| capacity | skill, capability and competence of staff (ongoing) | | (ongoing) 2. Continue to continue to participate in capacity building opportunities to increase the expertise to assess fishing capacity (ongoing) |
| Lack of research and assessment of migratory shared stock | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct capacity building program for fisheries managers and researchers to enhance skill, capability and competence of staff (ongoing) 2. Conduct regular fishery resource monitoring programs and fishery resource survey including migratory species (ongoing) 3. Active participation in regional efforts in assessing the status of migratory shared stocks (ongoing) | FMP and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | Continue to consult and engage relevant organizations as required and relevant (ongoing) |

Capacity and capability to manage fishing capacity: inadequate capacity and capability for monitoring, control and surveillance

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| Encroachment of local fishing vessels into prohibited areas | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two-tier National Committee IUU Fishing (Steering and Working Committee, established in 2017) among others to strengthen inter-agencies coordination and information sharing on MCS 2. Utilization of “Fishermen’ eyes and ears” (ongoing) 3. Malaysia NPOA IUU fishing (2013) 4. Capacity building programs for enforces and port state inspectors (ongoing) 5. Strengthening mechanism for continuous stakeholder’s participation in monitoring and reporting encroachment (ongoing) 6. Strengthening MCS by intensifying patrols (ongoing) 7. Installation of Mobile Tracking Unit | National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI) (2015 to 2019) | All fishing vessels are not allowed to operate beyond Singapore waters. All fishing vessels are equipped with transponders that are monitored by the Maritime Port Authority (MPA) and relevant security agencies (ongoing) |

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| | (MTU) on local commercial fishing vessels (ongoing) 8. Development of Fisheries Regulations on VMS (in progress) 9. Improving the system of communication and handling of complaints from stakeholders (ongoing) | | |
| Encroachment of foreign fishing vessels | 1. Two-tier National Committee IUU Fishing (Steering and Working Committee, established in 2017) among others to strengthen inter-agencies coordination and information sharing on MCS 2. Malaysia NPOA IUU fishing (2013) 3. Establishment of National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI) (in progress) 4. Appointment of Port Inspector (established 2016) 5. Repository for IUU fishing involving foreign fishing vessels in Malaysian Fisheries Waters (in progress) 6. Conduct regular surveillance (ongoing) 7. Strengthen coordination mechanism among the related enforcement agencies (ongoing) 8. Cooperation at national and regional level (ongoing) | National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI) (2015 to 2019) | Foreign fishing vessels are prohibited from operating within Singapore waters. All foreign fishing vessels are required to notified AVA and MPA of their arrival and departure into the Port of Singapore (ongoing) |

Public awareness: insufficient public awareness programs and participation

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---------|--|--|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| Fishers | 1. Fishers/stakeholders forum (at local, national, and regional levels) (e.g. MPI: Industry Consultancy) (ongoing) | FMP and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | AVA regularly engages local commercial fishers on their fishing operation (ongoing) |

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| | 2. Develop coordination and partnerships among stakeholders (ongoing) 3. Facilitate community training skills and development program including EAFM (ongoing) 4. Encourage stakeholder's active participation in resource management activities (ongoing) 5. Implement public awareness programs on sustainable fisheries through management of fishing capacity – information and communication program (IEC) (ongoing) | | |
| General public (exclude fishers, <i>e.g.</i> consumers) | 1. Conduct public awareness programs on sustainable fisheries through management of fishing capacity (ongoing) | FMP and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | AVA regularly engages local commercial fishers on their fishing operation (ongoing) |

Market-driven pressure

| Issues | Key Action | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| | Malaysia | Thailand | Singapore |
| Demand for fish derived from unsustainable fishing practices (<i>e.g.</i> high-priced fish, endangered fish species, trash fish) | 1. Promotion of EAFM (ongoing) 2. Conduct public awareness programs on sustainable fisheries through management of fishing capacity (focus on sustainable fishing practices) especially for traders and consumers (ongoing) 3. Early discussion to develop catch certification system to improve traceability and ensuring product legality (ongoing) | FMP and Royal Ordinance (2015 to 2019) | AVA regularly engages seafood traders to ensure compliance to the RFMOs that Singapore are cooperating with <i>i.e.</i> ICCAT, IOTC, and CCAMLR (ongoing) |

Questionnaire C: Activities and Lessons Learnt by the Member Countries in Managing Fishing Capacity

1. Demersal fisheries within the EEZ

| Countries | Activities/management measures/regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|-----------|---|--|
| Malaysia | No issuance of new licence in the coastal zone for all types of fishing vessels and fishing gears except for poverty eradication program. | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Better protection of the coastal resources Increase of fisheries resources by reducing stress (fishing capacity) <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure/complaints from the stakeholders The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures Lack of enforcement capacity IUU – operating without licensed <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Organize frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders and politicians Fisheries Stock Assessments and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation Precautionary approach as a basis for policy decision |
| | Conduct regular assessment on the level of fishing capacity | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Know the current status of the level of fishing capacity compared with the existing resources Suggest policy recommendation based on the assessment for mitigation measures <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To balance the social and economic needs with the current status of resources (<i>e.g.</i> commercial fisheries vs conservation of resources vs market demand) Complicated assessment methods that require expertise The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Organize frequent briefing sessions with politicians Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure continuity for the assessment activities |
| | Cancel licence of non-performing fishing vessels | <p><u>Result:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Only genuine player involves in the fishing activities Increased the level of control and monitoring of fishing vessels <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures |

| Countries | Activities/management measures/regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|------------------|--|--|
| | | 2. Complaints from the stakeholders <u>Lesson learnt:</u> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with politicians |
| | Redeploy specific gear vessel in Zone B vessels from exploited resources to under exploited resources | <u>Results:</u> 1. Reduce pressure to the fishery resources 2. Increase the recruitment level of fish stocks <u>Challenges:</u> 1. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures 2. Complaints from the stakeholders <u>Lessons learnt:</u> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with politicians 2. Fisheries Stock Assessment and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation |
| | Imposition of 38 mm cod-end mesh size for trawl net in all fishing zone | <u>Results:</u> 1. Reduce pressure to the fisheries resources 2. Increase the recruitment level of fish stocks <u>Challenges:</u> 1. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures 2. Complaints from the stakeholders <u>Lessons learnt:</u> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders 2. Fisheries Stock Assessment and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation |
| Thailand | Reducing fishing capacity and effort to be optimum level | <u>Results:</u> Demersal fisheries resources under optimum level |
| Singapore | Singapore has a small fishing fleet of 6 vessels operating within national waters. Fishing capacity is limited as all fishing vessels are below 24 meters. All fishing vessels and fishing gears are licensed and inspected annually. All landings are recorded and monitored. | Fishing capacity is controlled by small number and capacity of fishing vessels. |

2. Pelagic Fisheries within EEZ

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Malaysia | No issuance of new licence in the coastal zone for all types of fishing vessels and fishing gears except for poverty eradication program. | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better protection of the coastal resources 2. Increase of fisheries resources by reducing stress (fishing capacity) <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pressure/complaints from the stakeholders 2. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures 3. Lack of enforcement capacity 4. IUU – operating without licensed <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders and politicians 2. Fisheries Stock Assessments and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation 3. Precautionary approach as a basis for policy decision |
| | Conduct regular assessment on the level of fishing capacity | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know the current status of the level of fishing capacity compared with the existing resources 2. Suggest policy recommendation based on the assessment for mitigation measures <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To balance the social and economic needs with the current status of resources (<i>e.g.</i> commercial fisheries vs conservation of resources vs market demand) 2. Complicated assessment methods that require expertise 3. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with politicians 2. Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure continuity for the assessment activities |
| | Cancel licence of non-performing fishing vessels | <p><u>Result:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only genuine player involves in the fishing activities 2. Increased the level of control and monitoring of fishing vessels <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures 2. Complaints from the stakeholders <p><u>Lesson learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with politicians |
| Thailand | - | - |

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|-----------|--|---------------------------|
| Singapore | Singapore does not have any pelagic fisheries as they are not the target species. | NA |

3. Other management plans (within EEZ)

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|-----------|---|---|
| Malaysia | Monitor and evaluate the status of the fishery resources | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the status and develop the Fisheries Management Plan 2. Establish national fisheries stock status <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stock assessment for data poor area 2. To convert gear based database to species-based database 3. Realigned the historical data collection methods for fish stock assessment 4. The need for huge amount of resources (facilities, manpower and fund, etc.) to conduct the fish stock assessment 5. Lack of expertise to conduct fish stock assessment among managers and researchers <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fisheries Stock Assessments and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation 2. The need for political will to ensure available resources to conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the status of fishery resources 3. Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure continuity of the assessment activities |
| | Review the existing fishing gears that are used in Malaysia and develop fishing gears specifications to be incorporated into the condition of licence | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the current licensing policy <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of expertise in fishing gear technology 2. Complaints from stakeholders in regards to modifying the existing gear to suit to the new requirement 3. MCS – more MCS activities due to the new requirements 4. To familiarize the enforcer on the new requirements <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders 2. Fisheries stock Assessments and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation |

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|-----------|--|--|
| | | 3. Improvement of fishing gear technology will increase sustainability (efficiency, economically and environmental friendly) 4. Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure continuity of the assessment activities |
| | Revised zonation system in West Coast Peninsular Malaysia | <u>Results:</u> 1. To promote equitable share of resources in sustainable manner 2. To protect small-scale fisheries and their livelihood 3. To reduce conflict among stakeholders 4. To reduce stress (less destructive fishing gear and less fishing activities) on the resources and increase productivity <u>Challenges:</u> 1. Encroachment issues 2. Complaints from stakeholders <u>Lessons learnt:</u> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders 2. Fisheries Stock Assessments and fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation |
| | Encourage fishers to exit for sustainable alternative livelihoods | <u>Results:</u> 1. Reduce pressure to the fisheries resources 2. Increase the recruitment level of fish stocks 3. Increase the economy of other alternative livelihood (aquaculture and downstream industries) <u>Challenges:</u> 1. Acquiring the needed skills and resources to be successful farmers/entrepreneurs <u>Lessons learnt:</u> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders 2. Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure continuity of the activities |
| | Entry control through registration | <u>Results:</u> 1. Better management of the fisheries resources 2. To know the status of fishing capacity in Malaysia <u>Challenges:</u> 1. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policy and procedures 2. Complaints from the stakeholders <u>Lessons learnt:</u> 1. Having a proper database or record of fishing activities will improve the management of fisheries resources |

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|------------------|--|---|
| | Establish Fish <i>Refugias</i> | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce pressure to the fisheries resources 2. Increase the recruitment level of fish stocks 3. Conserve, rehabilitate and protect marine biodiversity <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policy and procedures 2. Lack of species specific experts and overall refugia management experts <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders and political master 2. Fisheries Stock Assessments and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation 3. Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure continuity of the assessment activities |
| | Declare close season | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce pressure to the fisheries resources 2. Increase the recruitment of fish stocks <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures 2. Complaints from the stakeholders 3. To ensure the suitability and practicality of the closing season <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organizing frequent briefing sessions with stakeholders 2. Fisheries Stock Assessments and Fisheries Management Plan will increase the transparency of the policy implementation |
| Thailand | FMP and Royal Ordinance | 80% of activities follow FMP and Royal Ordinance |
| Singapore | NA | NA |

4. Demersal fisheries outside the EEZ (if appropriate to your country)

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|-----------|--|------------------------------|
| Malaysia | Not applicable | |
| Thailand | Member of RFMO: SIOFA | Follow the activity of SIOFA |
| Singapore | Singapore does not have any fishing operations beyond our waters | NA |

5. Pelagic fisheries outsider the EEZ (if appropriate to your country)

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|-----------|--|---|
| Malaysia | To increase the level of compliance of the IOTC resolutions | <p><u>Results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of port State measures at national level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment and appointments of port inspectors - Establishment of port inspection mechanisms/tools - Development of SOP for entry into port and landing at designated port - Enforcement the use of e-PSM - Strengthening monitoring system for high-sea vessel (<i>e.g.</i> VMS and logbook) - Establishment of the Working Committee on Tuna Management at port level consist of various authorities <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The need for political support to ensure smooth implementation of the policies and procedures Complaints from the stakeholders (lack of stakeholders' awareness on the important of fisheries management) Lack of species specific experts and overall tuna management experts Review of legal framework To improve the current monitoring mechanism for high-seas vessel (<i>e.g.</i> implement the observer onboard requirement and develop integrated VMS system) <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The important of communication / materials to educate /create awareness among stakeholder Organize frequent briefing session with stakeholders Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure continuity of the management and research activities |

| Countries | Activities / management measures / regulations to support management of fishing capacity | Results of the activities |
|------------------|--|---|
| | | 4. The need for political will to ensure available resources to conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the high-sea fishing activities and the required legal framework |
| Thailand | Member of RFMO: IOTC | Follow activities of IOTC |
| Singapore | Singapore does not have any fishing operations beyond our waters | NA |

PROMOTION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF NERITIC TUNAS IN THE ASEAN REGION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The stock and risk assessment for Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*S. guttatus*) resources were conducted in 2018 and 2019 based on the assumption that there are two stocks of each species in the Southeast Asian waters, *i.e.*, Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 57) and Indian ocean stocks (FAO fishing area 71). Assessment for each species can be summarized as follows:

A. Pacific Ocean Side of the Southeast Asian Region

Spanish mackerel: It is suggested that the stock status is in the very serious overfished and subject to overfishing. TAC should be less than the MSY level (129,000 t). This means that the current catch level (163,800 t) (Average of 2014-2016) should be decreased by 65,500 t (40%).

King mackerel: TAC can be increased to the MSY level (15,100 t). This means that the current catch level (11,600 t) can be increased by 3,500 t (131%).

B. Indian Ocean Side of the Southeast Asian Region

Spanish mackerel: TAC should be less than the MSY level (55,170 t), This means that the current catch level (54,100 t) should be decreased by 10,800 t (20%).

King mackerel: TAC can be increased to the MSY level (21,500 t). This means that the current catch level (18,700 t) can be increased by 2,800 t (115%).

There were several challenge issues on the stock assessment such as: CPUE standardization could not be conducted due to lack of fine scale CPUE such as by season and area in the current analysis, which may cause the bias according to the bias level of nominal CPUE

The results of genetic studies using mtDNA suggested Longtail tuna in South China Sea, Andaman Sea, and Sulu Sea is a single stock. Further studies should be conducted using more variable molecular markers such as microsatellite DNA to confirm this finding.

There arise several recommendations toward sustainable management of neritic tuna in Southeast Asian waters, such as a) Indonesian scientists are recommended to actively participate relevant meetings in the future because effectiveness of management advices will highly depend upon the domestic management scheme with large amount catch, b) Each Member Country needs to consider multi-gears and multi-species nature of fisheries in developing optimum management strategies in the future. Regarding to the recommendation by the 50th CM (Para 54), SEAFDEC's work on the stock assessment are intended to enhance the capacity of Member Countries.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note the progress on implementations of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas (**Appendix 1**), especially on the results of 2018 to 2019 stock and risk assessment of the Spanish and king mackerel, management measures for these stocks, challenges on the stock assessment and genetic study on Longtail tuna. The Council is also requested to provide guidelines in order to raise the issues on management of these two species as referred to the major findings from the study mentioned above.

The Meeting is also invited to provide directive guidance to SEAFDEC on the following:

- Support the extending works of the existing Scientific Working Group on Stock Assessment (SWG) (**Appendix 2**) to support other shared stock species such as anchovy, sardines, scads, etc.; and
- Securing the budget to support the operation of secretariat and administration works for the Scientific Working Group activities.

Promotion of the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region

I. BACKGROUND

Recognizing the importance of neritic tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian waters, the regional or sub-regional cooperation to promote the sustainable utilization of neritic tunas is therefore addressed at the 45th Meeting of the Council in 2013, while the Council requested SEAFDEC to develop of the Regional Plan of Action for neritic tuna fisheries. In response to this, SEAFDEC with funding support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project together with ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries drafting the RPOA-Neritic Tunas through a series of Expert meetings and Regional Technical Consultation since 2013. The draft RPOA-Neritic Tunas resulted from the consultative meetings was circulated to all SEAFDEC Member Countries for comments before it was addressed and endorsed as amended by the 17th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in December 2014. The Final RPOA-Neritic Tunas was adopted at the 47th Meeting of the Council (47CM) in April 2015, and later endorsed by the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries in June 2015 with the notification by SOM-37th AMAF in the same year.

To facilitate implementation of the RPOA-Neritic tuna, the Scientific Working Group on Stock Assessment (SWG-Neritic Tunas) established in 2014 plays an important role to provide scientific evidence on the status of neritic tuna stock in the Southeast Asia. Up to date, five meetings of the Scientific Working Group on stock assessment are conducted in Malaysia (2014 and 2017), Viet Nam (2015), and Thailand (2016 and 2019). The meetings aimed to review the current stock status of neritic tunas, discussion for development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for data and information collection, genetic study, capacity development through the training program, and required management measures.

Based on stock and risk assessments in 2016 study using ASPIC, “Kobe plot” and “Risk assessment” software, the resource statuses (2013-2014) of Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) in both Indian and Pacific Ocean sides of the Southeast Asian Region were still safe situation. While for Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), the resource status was un-safe situation for Indian Ocean side but still safe situation for Pacific Ocean side.

II. PROGRESS ON THE STOCK AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SPANISH MACKEREL AND KING MACKEREL

The stock and risk assessment for Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*S. guttatus*) resources were conducted in 2018 and 2019 based on the assumption that there are two stocks of each species in the Southeast Asian waters, *i.e.*, Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 57) and Indian ocean stocks (FAO fishing area 71). Stock status (2016) and management advices (TAC) were made based on stock and risk assessments using ASPIC, “Kobe plot” and “Risk assessment” software. In ASPIC, two types data are used, *i.e.*, (a) annual total nominal catch by stock (1950-2016) and (b) CPUE (catch and effort) by stock, country, gear and area, provided by FAO, IOTC, and SEAFDEC Member countries. Assessment for each species can be summarized as follows:

A. Pacific Ocean Side of the Southeast Asian Region

Spanish mackerel: It is suggested that the stock status is in the very serious overfished and subject to overfishing. TAC should be less than the MSY level (129,000 t). This means that the current catch level (163,800 t) (Average of 2014-2016) should be decreased by 65,500 t (40%).

King mackerel: It is suggested that the stock status is very safe situation. TAC can be increased to the MSY level (15,100 t). This means that the current catch level (11,600 t) (Average of 2014-2016) can be increased by 3,500 t (131%).

B. Indian Ocean Side of the Southeast Asian Region

Spanish mackerel: It is suggested that the stock status is not safe situation. TAC should be less than the MSY level (55,170 t), This means that the current catch level (54,100 t) (Average of 2014-2016) should be decreased by 10,800 t (20%).

King mackerel: It is suggested that the stock status is very safe situation. TAC can be increased to the MSY level (21,500 t). This means that the current catch level (18,700 t) (Average of 2014-2016) can be increased by 2,800 t (115%).

C. Comparison of the stock status of Spanish mackerel with in the IOTC area

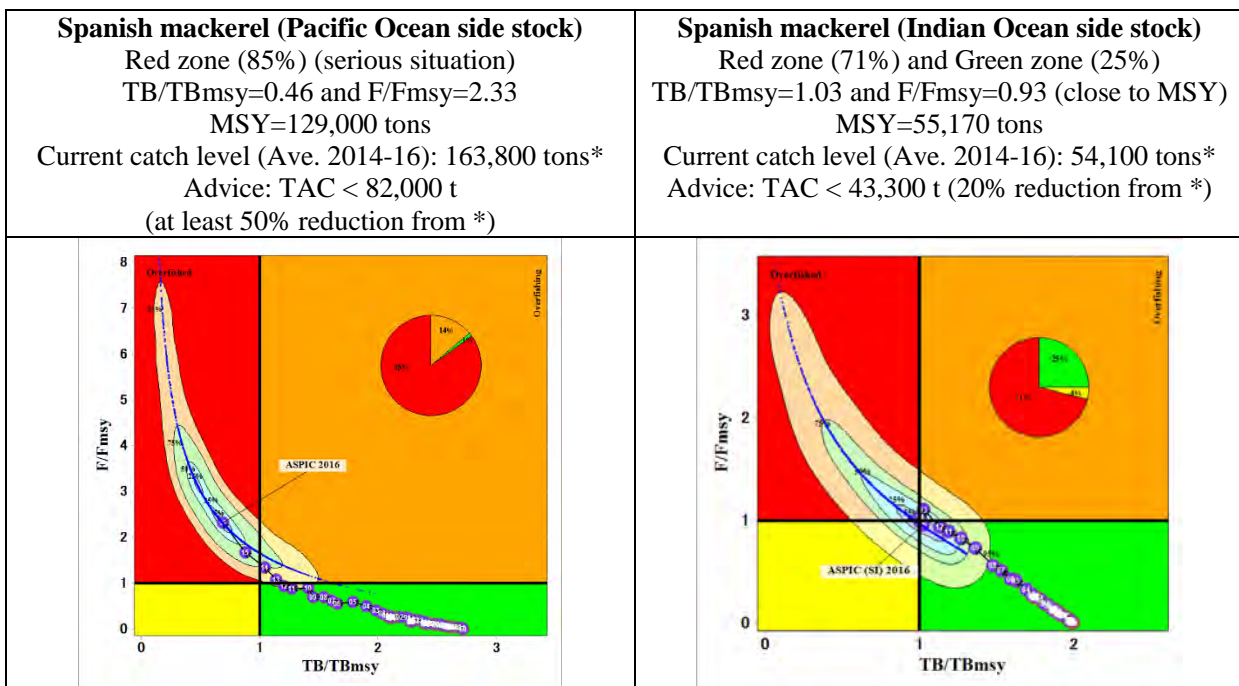
The latest stock assessment using data poor method conducted by IOTC in 2015 is much more un-safe situation than our Southeast Asian Area in the same year, which implies that the stock in other areas of the Indian Ocean than Southeast Asian Waters (Australia, South Asia, Middle-east and Africa) have been harvested more heavily.

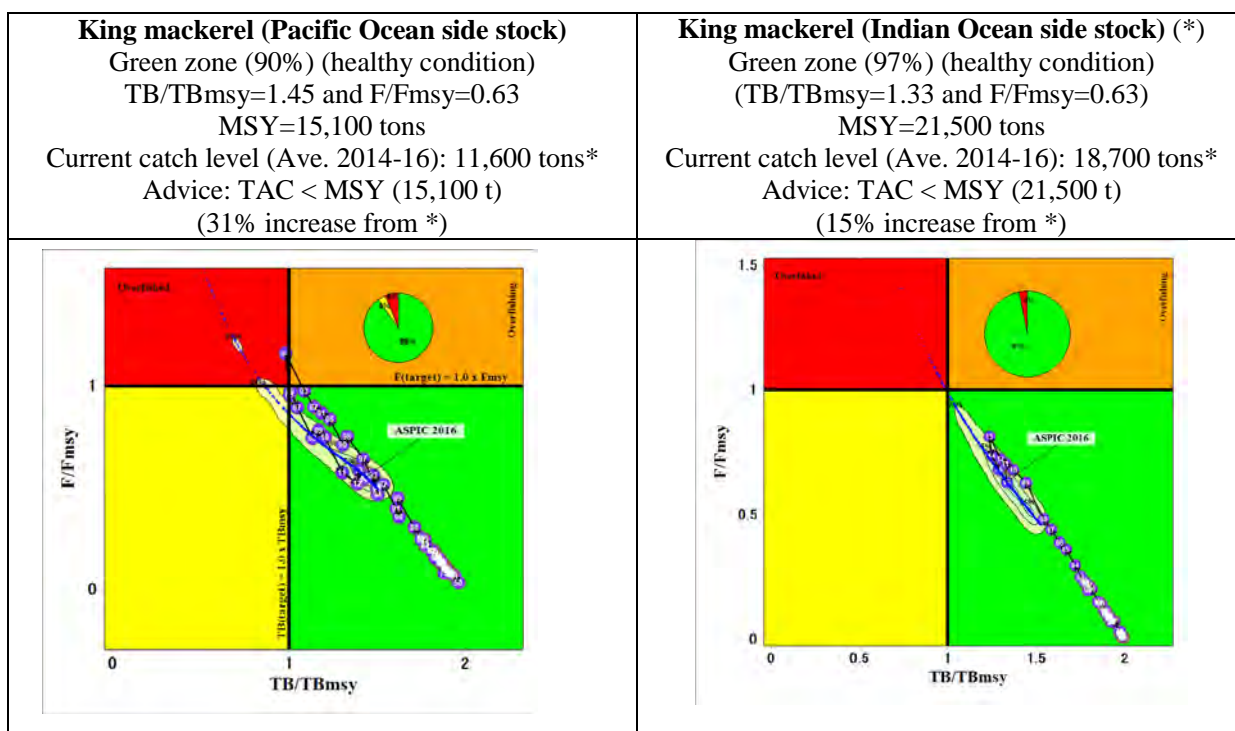
III. CHALLENGE ISSUES ON STOCK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

Lack of fine scale CPUE data

Although Indonesia produces the largest catch for both species, no nominal CPUE are available. It is suggested for Indonesia and other countries not collecting nominal CPUE to start collecting catch and effort data following the standard of Procedures (SOP) for data collection agreed in 2015 (SEAFDEC, 2015). In addition, CPUE standardization could not be conducted due to lack of fine scale CPUE such as by season and area. As nominal CPUE include biases in different levels, results of sock and risk assessments may be biased according to the bias level of nominal CPUE. Thus, the collection of fine scale (set by set) nominal CPUE (stipulated in the SOP) enable to conduct CPUE standardization is recommended.

Stock status (2016) and management advices (TAC) based on stock and risk assessments by ASPIC for Spanish and king mackerel in the Southeast Asian Waters





Lack of model fitness

Spanish mackerel (Indian Ocean Side) and king mackerel (Pacific Ocean Side) did not fit well to ASPIC and CPUE, which may be caused by a problem on the un-balanced statistical design, *i.e.* very short time series of CPUE (10-15 years) fitted to long-term stock assessment period (57 years).

Difficulties of practical management advices due to multispecies situation

The practical management advices in each Member Country will be difficult to implement because Spanish and king mackerel are exploited together with other species by different gears and TAC advices of these two species are completely different, *i.e.* catch of Spanish mackerel needs to be decreased, while king mackerel increased. Therefore, multispecies managements should be developed in the future.

IV. GENETIC STUDIES OF LONGTAIL TUNA

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD with the support from SEAFDEC-Sweden project conducted the population study of neritic tunas in Southeast Asia which aimed to identify the level of genetic diversity of *Thunnus tonggol* (Longtail tuna, LOT) in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea, and to identify the genetic structure of LOT between both sub-regional areas by using mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) displacement loop (*D-loop*) marker.

About 500 samples of LOT from 12 locations in Andaman Sea, South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, and Sulu Sea had been analyzed by using mtDNA *D-loop* gene. The result showed no significant structures, which suggests the Longtail tuna in South China Sea, Andaman Sea, and Sulu Sea is a single stock. Analysis using mtDNA *Cyt b* gene also supported the results from mtDNA *D-loop* analysis.

This study is only based on one type of marker (mtDNA). Further studies should be conducted using more variable molecular markers such as microsatellite DNA to confirm this finding.

V. RECOMMENDATION

SEAFDEC Member Countries should consider recommendations made by SWG meetings in the national levels. Especially Indonesia exploits large amount of catch for both species, thus effectiveness of management advices (TAC) for these two stocks will highly depend upon the Indonesian domestic

management scheme. In this regards, Indonesian scientists are recommended to actively participate relevant meetings in the future.

The stock and risk assessment should be conducted routinely, especially species with serious un-safe stock status need to be monitored ever year until the stock status changes to the safe condition.

Following SOP of data collection, Member Countries should improve data collection for stock assessments especially for catch and CPUE through logbooks, port sampling, observer programs etc. In considering TAC, each Member Country needs to consider multi-gears and multi-species nature of fisheries, thus optimum management strategies need to be developed by Member Countries.

SEAFDEC is not RFMO, thus the management advices are not binding nor mandatory, but the sustainable utilization of neritic tuna fisheries is very important thus it is strongly recommended for SEAFDEC to have a function and budgets to conduct the routine stock and risk assessments in the future.

VI. RESPONSES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE 50TH CM

Recommendation made by Council (Para 54): SEAFDEC should not duplicate the efforts of these RFMOs in controlling the amount of catch in the Southeast Asian waters based on the results of the stock and risk assessment of economically-important fishes such as the neritic tunas.

Follow-up Actions: SEAFDEC intention is not to duplicate the effort made by RFMOs. It should be noted that not all SEAFDEC Member Countries are members of the RFMOs. Therefore, SEAFDEC's work on Stock Assessment particularly for neritic tuna are intended to enhance the capacity on stock assessment of MCs, in addition, to promote the regional cooperation on managing fishing capacity based on the results from stock assessment.

Recommendation made by Council (Para 56): Myanmar supported the scientific cooperation for management of fishing capacity among Member Countries and requested SEAFDEC to continue extending the activities that contribute to such scientific cooperation to Myanmar and other AMSs in the future.

Follow-up Actions: It is noted that the SWG-Neritic tunas will continue work on stock assessment.

**Terms of Reference of the Scientific Working Group for Stock Assessment on Neritic Tunas
in the Southeast Asian Region**

(Adopted at 47th SEAFDEC Council, April 2015)

I. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

Refers to the Expert Group Meeting on Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tuna Resources in the Southeast Asian Waters conducted on 18-20 June 2014 in Krabi Province, Thailand, that, during the workshop, one of the important outputs was the need to establish Scientific Working Group on Stock Assessment for neritic tunas in the Southeast Asian waters herein after called “SWG-Neritic tunas”. In this connection, SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam nominated their delegations to work as members of the scientific working group since October 2014. To facilitate the work of Scientific Working Group, SEAFDEC formulated the Term of Reference (ToR) to be considered and finalized by all members of the SWG at the 1st Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters, 18-20 November 2014 in Malaysia. The objectives of the ToR is to ensure that the regional cooperation from AMS on the stock assessment of the neritic tunas can be effectively implemented by the SWG as well as SEAFDEC to continue support under the ToR framework after the end of the funded project.

II. ROLE OF SWG-NERITIC TUNAS

The role of SWG is to provide technical/scientific advice particular on the current status of neritic tuna fisheries resources and policy consideration needs to the SEAFDEC Council for the improvement of fisheries management in Southeast Asia.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

SWG will cover data collection, genetic study and other relevant activities to support stock assessment on neritic tunas and mackerel species (seerfish) for the management of neritic tunas in Southeast Asian waters.

IV. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SWG-NERITIC TUNAS

- To review and assess the current status of the neritic tuna resources in the region;
- To provide scientific based recommendations on priority fisheries management issues which may include policy consideration, and coordinated fisheries management actions for sustainable utilization of neritic tunas;
- To share the national catch and effort data/information including the biological data (if available) for regional stock assessment of the neritic tunas;
- To identify the needs for human capacity requirements in Member Countries; and
- To coordinate with international/regional organizations, programs or projects concerned with fisheries management and sustainable use of fisheries resources in formulating advice.

V. COMPOSITION OF THE SWG-NERITIC TUNAS

The composition of the SWG-Neritic tunas is identified as follows:

a. SWG-Neritic tunas:

The SWG comprises at least two standing members representing the SEAFDEC Member Country by nomination with Four-year fixed tenure of members and possibility for reappointment.

b. Chief Scientist(s):

An interim Chief Scientist for stock assessment of neritic tunas shall be a stock assessment expert from MFRDMD. A work period of the Chief Scientist is depended upon the tenure of the study period as decided by the SWG.

c. Chairperson:

SWG-Neritic tunas shall be chaired by Chief MFRDMD and co-chaired by a representative of its Member Countries on an annual rotational basis following alphabetical in order.

d. Resources persons/ Experts:

SWG-neritic tunas may identify and invite resource persons/experts from the Member Countries, ASEAN and other international/regional organizations to participate in SWG Meeting on an *ad-hoc* basis.

e. Secretariat:

MFRDMD in collaboration with the SEAFDEC Secretariat shall serve as a secretariat of the SWG meeting, as well as coordinate with the SWG members on the propose period and date of the meeting.

f. Rapporteur:

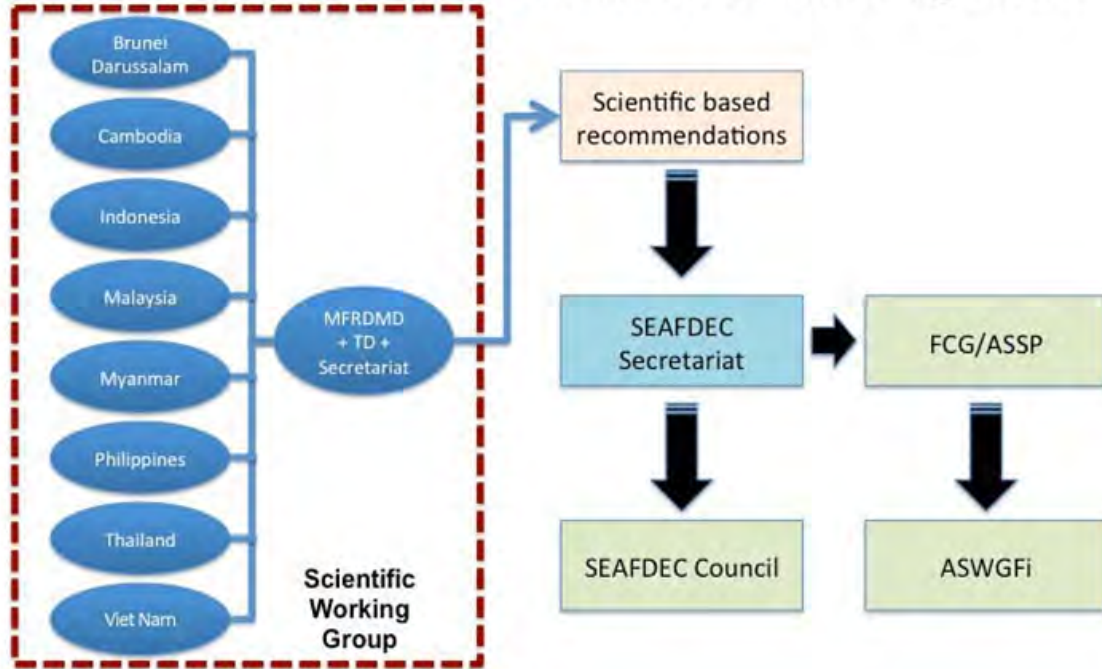
Secretariat of the meeting shall perform a Rapporteur of the SWG meeting in collaboration with the host country.

VI. NATURE OF SWG ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. SWG is scheduled to meet at least once a year. The timing of the meeting(s) should be set in accordance with SEAFDEC annual working cycle before the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting.
2. Inter-sessional activities may be conducted as the need arises and subject to availability of funds.
3. The SWG meetings will be partially funded by SEAFDEC-Sweden Project managing by the secretariat of the working group. Under this condition, annually a certain amount of the money would be used for the meeting cost and participation of members from SEAFDEC MFRDMD and Secretariat to the SWG meetings; while the Member Countries would bear the cost for their participation to the SWG meetings starting from 2018.
4. The cost for attendance of the resource persons during SWG meeting (s) or during the inter-sessional activities should be from SEAFDEC-Sweden project and extra budgetary sources under the responsible of the Secretariat, while the cost for the experts/ representatives from international/regional organizations will be shouldered by their respective organizations.
5. The cost for the inter-sessional activities will be funded from SEAFDEC-Sweden project and/or extra-budgetary sources.
6. SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Member Countries and the MFRDMD are responsible for sourcing extra-budgetary funds for SWG.
7. Based on SWG's advice, the SEAFDEC Council will decide on how such advice should be considered and followed-up for the next session including imparting the recommendations to the ASEAN through ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries.

VII. MECHANISM TO CONVEY THE TECHNICAL SCIENTIFIC ADVICE RECOMMENDATION

Scientific Working Group Mechanism to address the Scientific based recommendations to high-level



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL ANGUILLID EEL RESOURCES AND PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tropical anguillid eels are drawing more attention to compensate the shortage of supply of eel seeds for aquaculture (eel farming) in recent years. However, there are no historical record on the status of tropical anguillid eel resources, catch statistics especially on juveniles for seeds, and eel farming production in Southeast Asia.

The 2-year project, the title: Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia (August 2017-July 2019), using Japan ASEAN Integrate Fund, has been conducted by SEAFDEC with full cooperation of AMSs to develop fishery statistics & data collection system, examine the status of tropical anguillid eel species in AMSs, and improve eel aquaculture condition.

SEAFDEC has gathered information on eel fishery and present status on resources management in 5 Countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Viet Nam), and has established the data collecting system for developing the catch statistics (with indices of effort) in 4 countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Myanmar) for monitoring the trend and fluctuation of eel seed catch in this region.

SEAFDEC has also conducted many consultations and meeting to enhance the Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia, and to update and discuss on the progress of our works for the preparation of information document and making the policy guidelines. The information document, "Status and Resources Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia, which was prepared at the International Technical Workshop on 7-8 June 2018, was submitted to the Thirtieth meeting of the CITES Animals Committee held in Geneva, Switzerland on July 16-21, 2018. The policy guidelines for regional conservation and management of tropical anguillid eel resources in Southeast Asia were adopted at the 2nd Regional Meeting on 18-19 October 2018. These guidelines (**Appendix 1**) were already endorsed by the Councils as *ad referendum*, and will be further submitted to be endorsed by ASEAN side through collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat finally.

However, in order to develop an effective resource management measures, it is important to develop methods to assessment the resources stock of tropical anguillid eel resources and to estimate the total allowable catch level for sustainable use. Therefore, SEAFDEC is preparing to propose a new project, the title: Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia, using Japan ASEAN Integrate Fund. This new project purpose is to strengthen the current fisheries statistics data collection system, collect biological and ecological data on field, develop mathematical/statistical stock assessment methods, and propose appropriate management policy/measures to secure sustainable use of tropical Anguillid eels in Southeast Asia.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To support SEAFDEC activities on surveys and sampling in each member country.
- To support the establishment of the catch statistics on anguillid eels in each member country.

Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel resources in Southeast Asia

(Adopted at the 2nd Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia, 18-19 October 2018, Bangkok, Thailand)

I. BACKGROUND

Eel resources are mainly utilized for direct human consumption not only in Europe but also in East and Southeast Asia. European eels have become regulated species by CITES for international trade since 2009 due to resource decline and potential extinction. Recently, large consumption of the Japonica eel species in East Asia has led to the rapidly decreasing amount of glass eels. On the other hand, the demand for tropical anguillid eels in Southeast Asia which has increased recently, not only for domestic consumption but also for export to China, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan among others, could lead to the decline of the resource.

The development of this document took into consideration the Policy Recommendations on Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in December 2014, and the Twenty-third Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in June 2015. Moreover, attention was also paid on the recommendation of the CITES Animal Committee Meeting in 2018 on the need to strengthen the management of tropical anguillid eels to ensure their sustainable utilization.

In this connection, the need to strengthen the management for eel species worldwide has been recognized making it also necessary for the Southeast Asian region to take appropriate management measures for eel resources and their sustainable utilization. Considering that resources management measures for tropical anguillid eels have not yet been in place in the ASEAN member countries where the fisheries of tropical anguillid eel exist, and in order to develop and implement regional management measures for tropical anguillid eels, the necessary information on the tropical anguillid eel species, such as catch data, distribution areas, aquaculture production, and export data among others, should be compiled.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY GUIDELINES

This Policy Guidelines is intended to propose a way of formulating and implementing effective regional management measures, as well as recommend the actions that should be taken for the sustainable utilization of tropical anguillid eels in the Southeast Asian region.

III. PROBLEM ANALYSIS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL ANGUILLID EELS

In order to establish effective and sound conservation and management of tropical anguillid eel resources in the ASEAN region, the ASEAN Member States and SEAFDEC should address several issues that were identified during the Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia organized in October 2018, as shown below.

1. Inadequate statistical data on eel resource utilization such as catch data, as well as a systematic data collection scheme

Harmonized data on catch, species, life stages, fishing gear, and fishing effort (*e.g.* duration of fishing operation, number of fishing gears, number of fishers) are necessary for understanding the current status of glass and elver/yellow eel fisheries, and for carrying out stock assessment. Moreover, biological data such as length, weight, age of elver/yellow eels, are also important for stock assessment. However, more often than not, such biological and fisheries data on tropical anguillid eels are inadequate. Consolidators and/or fishers play an important role in compiling the relevant eel fishery data. The eels caught by local fishers are often collected by eel consolidators who in turn sell the eel catch to consumers or traders, as the

case may be. Therefore, an effective registration and licensing system for eel consolidators is necessary in order that the consolidators will be obliged to compile the abovementioned data.

2. Limited information on eel aquaculture such as number of eel aquaculture farmers, eel culture production, and quantity of glass eels purchased and used by farmers

Data on aquaculture, such as the number of eel aquaculture farmers, eel culture production, and quantity of glass or elver eels purchased and used as inputs by farmers, are necessary to understand the current status of aquaculture and validate catch and international trade data. However, such information is insufficient for the tropical anguillid eels. It is therefore necessary that a data collection system for eel aquaculture activities should be established.

3. Geographic range of information on tropical anguillid eel species is insufficient

Information on natural habitat, spawning ground, and migration routes are fundamental for conservation and management of the eel stocks. However, spatial and temporal patterns of distribution of each tropical anguillid eel species are not well understood. Therefore, the geographic range of the tropical anguillid eel species in the region, should be examined based on the description of fishing areas, reproductive biology, and migration patterns.

4. Limited stock assessment studies on tropical anguillid eels

The status and trends of eel stocks are essential for stock management. However, such information is very limited for the tropical anguillid eels. Therefore, stock assessment, *e.g.* using CPUE analysis as an abundance index, should be conducted for tropical anguillid eels.

5. Limited effective conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels

Development of conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels should also be established for each country in the future, taking into consideration the results of the abovementioned stock assessment studies.

6. Mixed statistics on international trade of tropical anguillid eels

Considering that the existing trade data on anguillid eel species under the UN Comtrade Database include other eel species like swamp eel and snake eel, among others, there is a need to disaggregate such data in order to improve and confirm the appropriate trade data reporting system for the individual eel species.

IV. RECOMMENDED POLICY GUIDELINES FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANGUILLID EELS

The recommended actions to be taken by the ASEAN Member Countries for sustainable regional conservation and management of tropical anguillid eels include the following:

| Issues | Recommended Actions |
|---|---|
| <p>1) Inadequate statistical data on eel resource utilization such as catch data, as well as a systematic data collection scheme</p> | <p>Establish catch data collection system for tropical anguillid eels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of appropriate registration and reporting system for eel consolidators and fishers • Requiring eel consolidators and fishers to report their catch data and related information (<i>e.g.</i> fishing effort data, fishing area) to respective countries' competent authorities • Development of standard fisheries data collection system for tropical anguillid eels |

| Issues | Recommended Actions |
|---|---|
| <p>2) Limited information on eel aquaculture such as number of eel aquaculture farmers, eel culture production and quantity of glass eel/elver/yellow eels purchased and used by farmers</p> | <p>Establish data collection system for eel aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of appropriate registration scheme including licensing and reporting system for eel farmers • Requiring eel farmers to report their production, buyers, target destination of the products, amount of glass/elver/ yellow eels purchased, and other relevant information to respective countries' competent authorities |
| <p>3) Geographic range information on tropical anguillid eel species is limited</p> | <p>Determine the geographic range of tropical anguillid eel species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of information on geographic range for each tropical anguillid eel species • Conduct of studies to correctly identify the eel species, describe the stock structure, and examine the migratory routes and spawning areas |
| <p>4) Limited stock assessment studies on tropical anguillid eels</p> | <p>Conduct stock assessment study on tropical anguillid eel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of appropriate level of exploitation and indicators for managing eel stocks |
| <p>5) Limited effective conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels</p> | <p>Introduce and implement conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and promotion of conservation and management measures (<i>e.g.</i> regulations for eel collection, management of nursery areas, closed fishing season and/or areas for eel fisheries, setting of upper limit on glass eel inputs for farms, trade regulations, etc.) taking into account results of stock assessment studies |
| <p>6) Mixed statistics on international trade of tropical anguillid eels</p> | <p>Improve the international trade statistical data reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of trade data collection, coding and reporting to segregate statistics on tropical anguillid eels from those of the other eel species |

AQUATIC EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY DISEASE OUTBREAK IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The most serious problems faced by the aquaculture sector are diseases spread and introduced through movements of hatchery produced stocks, new species for aquaculture, and development and enhancement of the ornamental fish trade. During the 2012 and 2013 meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, member country representatives conveyed concern regarding the outbreaks of EMS/AHPND and other transboundary diseases in the region and recognized the need for concerted regional effort to address this. In response, the SEAFDEC Council, during its meeting in April 2014, suggested that aquatic animal health management, particularly the control and prevention of transboundary aquatic animal diseases, be included in the formulation of future programs of SEAFDEC and its partners in the region. Acknowledging the pressing need for sustained regional efforts to address disease problems in farmed aquatic animals, particularly on shrimps, SEAFDEC/ AQD and the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines, with financial support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, convened the Regional Technical Consultation on EMS/APHND and other Transboundary Diseases for Improved Aquatic Animal Health in Southeast Asia from 22 to 24 February 2016 in Makati City, Philippines. The Consultation assessed the status of EMS/AHPND and other emerging diseases in farmed shrimps in ASEAN Member States; identified gaps, priority areas for research and development and potential collaborative arrangements; and formulated regional policy recommendations that centered on emergency preparedness and response systems (early warning, detection and response) for an effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks in the region.

An **ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia** was proposed by SEAFDEC/AQD and the Government of Thailand (AAHRDD, Department of Fisheries) to address the recommendations of the RTC on AHPND and other transboundary diseases. The Consultation will tackle the pressing concern of the ASEAN Member States on how to systematically approach devastating outbreaks of transboundary diseases of aquatic animals in the region following a well-defined Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems (EPRS). For the meeting arrangements, SEAFDEC/AQD and AAHRDD, DOF will coordinate with the ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres (ANAAHC), the existing ASEAN body on aquatic animal health which is mainly responsible for coordination of aquatic animal health projects and activities in the region.

• Progress to Date

Considering the Government of Japan's strong commitment in supporting the initiatives related to enhancing food security and safety within ASEAN Member States, this consultation on aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary disease outbreaks in Southeast Asia was approved for support by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) in January 2018.

The ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia (ASEAN RTC on AEPRS) was held last 20-22 August 2018 in Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao in Bangkok, Thailand.

A total of 71 participants including country representatives from AMCs, resource persons, JAIF representatives, private sectors of selected countries, Thailand aquaculture farmers, and representatives from DOF-Thailand, SEAFDEC Secretariat and Aquaculture Department attended.

The ASEAN RTC on AEPRS comprised of three technical sessions: (1) Ten Country representatives presented current status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems concomitant to national laws, legislations, SOP's and aquatic animal health strategies, among others; (2) Six Resource persons

presented the importance of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary disease outbreaks based on primary accounts documented at the global or regional level; and (3) Workshop to identify gaps, policy recommendations, and priority areas for R&D collaboration. Through the collaboration of all sectors and institutions present during the consultation, the expected outputs had been met. See **Appendix 1** for full report and **Appendix 2** for full text of Ways Forward.

Following the workshop, a Regional Technical Guidelines and Mechanism for Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Diseases was drafted together with consultants. See **Appendix 3** for the drafted guidelines.

To enhance the participants' awareness on aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems being practiced at the farm level, the consultation was capped with a field trip to the Nam Sai Farms Tilapia hatchery, and to the Royal Sea Farming and Aquaculture Demonstration Project in Petchaburi Province.

Power point presentations of the participants are available at SEAFDEC website <http://www.seafdec.org.ph/2018/asean-rtc-on-aeprs/>

The publication of the proceedings for this Consultation is currently on-going. SEAFDEC/AQD, together with the partner organization, are also planning for a follow-up seminar-workshop.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to endorse the Regional Technical Guidelines and Mechanism for Early Warning System for Aquatic Diseases for 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries.

Report of ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia
20-22 August 2018, Centara Grand Central Ladprao, Bangkok, Thailand

I. INTRODUCTION

The ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia was conducted on 20-22 August 2018 in Centara Grand Central Ladprao in Bangkok, Thailand through the efforts of Department of Fisheries-Aquatic Animal Health Research and Development Division (DOF-AAHRDD) in Thailand together with Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center / Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD) with the support from the Government of Japan through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.

The Consultation was attended by country representatives from ASEAN Member States and resource persons from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) and NACA. Observers from private sectors of Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and aquaculture farmers from Thailand were present.

The ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia will discuss the status of and/or need for aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary disease outbreaks in Southeast Asia. Issues will be addressed through country reports, technical presentations and a workshop. Assessment of the current status of aquatic EPRS is currently being practiced by the different countries in the Southeast Asian region from the country reports. The workshop will review the existing laws, legislations and standard operating procedures (SOPs), among others, pertinent to aquatic EPRS of each member country, identify gaps, policy recommendations and priority areas for R&D collaboration and, enhance the cooperation among member countries, regional/international organizations and other relevant stakeholders on initiatives that support aquatic EPRS for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks.

II. INAUGURAL SESSIONS

In behalf of DOF Director-General *Dr. Adisorn Promthep*, DOF Deputy Director-General *Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum* officially welcomed the participants to the Consultation. Words of encouragement were also given by SEAFDEC Secretary-General *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* and SEAFDEC/AQD Deputy Chief *Dr. Koh-ichiro Mori*.

AAHRDD Director *Miss Janejit Kongkumnerd* gave the opening remarks and officially opened the technical sessions.

III. TECHNICAL SESSIONS

SEAFDEC/AQD Scientist and Training and Information Division Head *Dr. Edgar Amar* gave the overview of the Consultation.¹ Dr. Amar also served as the moderator for Technical Session 1.

- a. Technical Session 1: Presentation of Country Papers* on the current status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems concomitant to national laws, legislations, SOP's and aquatic animal health strategies, among others.

Brunei Darussalam

Mrs. Dk. Siti Norhaziyah Pg Haji Abd Halim, country representative of Brunei Darussalam, presented the current status, issues and gaps of aquatic emergency preparedness and response system practiced in Brunei Darussalam.¹

Dr. Cherdzak Virapat, NACA Director-General, asked about the channel of communication between Department of Fisheries officers and the farmers as well as the protocols in government visiting the farm during diseases outbreaks. Country representative of Brunei Darussalam said that the government is immediately notified of the outbreak through a mobile technical unit. The farmers also help in the eradication of the diseases by following the Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) manual. A certain condition was stated that farmers are required to cooperate in times of outbreaks and that the government will have access to the infected farms.

Dr. Leobert de la Peña, SEAFDEC/AQD Scientist and Research Division Head, asked if the government gives financial assistance during eradication of diseases and on planting new crops. Country representative of Brunei Darussalam confirmed that expenses during eradication had been covered by the government and as for planting new crops, the government compensate the farmer a certain amount and not the full costs. She also mentioned that there has only been one major outbreak in the country.

Dr. Eduardo Leaña, Aquatic Animal Health Programme Coordinator from NACA, mentioned that Brunei Darussalam used to be free from white-spot diseases and the had experienced outbreak only recently. He then asked the source of the infection and if it is due to imported shrimp from other countries. Country representative of Brunei Darussalam said that there's no conclusion or findings on where the outbreak came from and even the feeds were tested negative. She mentioned that Brunei does not allow importation of shrimps including high-risk broodstock. For exportation, the country export live fish for human consumption only.

As a follow-up, *Dr. Leaña* confirmed if Brunei Darussalam managed to fully eradicate infected stocks and country representative from Brunei Darussalam answered in the affirmative.

Mrs. Mukti Sri Hastuti, country representative from Indonesia, asked if the Brunei Darussalam's disease-free status pertains to the entire country or a certain zone or compartment only. Country representative from Brunei Darussalam confirmed that the entire country is disease-free.

Dr. Akito Sato, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, asked if the farmers still use the GAP manual even if a disease, not covered by OIE, broke out. As a follow-up question, he asked if the existing GAP manual enough or if it needs modification. Country representative from Brunei Darussalam answered that the implementation is only for OIE-listed outbreaks and by far, the country has not suffered non-OIE listed disease. She added that farmers are advised to follow the manual since it includes details on disease prevention and treatment as well as instructions on how to tackle the problem under the action plan.

Dr. Kua Beng Chu, country representative from Malaysia, asked if Brunei does import analysis on either old or new species. Country representative from Brunei Darussalam confirmed that they are doing it on new species only.

Since Brunei Darussalam self-declared itself free from four shrimp diseases, FAO Aquaculture Officer *Dr. Melba Reantaso* asked if those diseases are still listed on the national pathogen list. If those still are, she asked if the country wish to revise the national pathogen list based on its current disease status. The country representative from Brunei Darussalam said that the pathogens are still on the list since it is still listed as OIE disease regardless of the country's disease status. She explained that all importing countries are being notified of this in order for animal imported in country to be tested for those diseases for clearance and granting of aquatic animal health certificate.

Dr. Reantaso advised that the purpose of active surveillance is to determine the status of a particular disease in the culture species of the country. The information collected from the active surveillance should be used to update the disease list. *Dr. Reantaso* then commended Brunei Darussalam's approach in protecting the country from further disease incursions from the outside.

Cambodia

Mr. Khan Chan Dara, country representative of Cambodia, presented the current status, issues, and gaps on aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems practiced in Cambodia.¹

Regarding Cambodia's capacity on diseases reporting to OIE and NACA, *Dr. Leaño* mentioned that there is no need for the advanced tools for disease diagnosis. He explained that there are three levels of diagnostics. It was mentioned that Cambodia can't achieve the level 3 diagnosis and, according to *Dr. Leaño*, this shouldn't be a hindrance. He commended Cambodia's capacity in parasitology and bacteriology (level 2 diagnosis). Following his comment, *Dr. Leaño* explained the process of reporting the diseases which includes filling up the OIE and Quality Assurance Assessment Program (QAAP) forms upon disease detection. If there's certain disease listed on the form the cannot be detected, the country can just put "no information available" and make sure of the information (levels 1 and 2 diagnosis) collected from your research and surveillance for reporting.

Dr. Saengchan Senapin, Principal Researcher from Center of Excellence for Shrimp Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (Centrex Shrimp), mentioned that Centrex Shrimp recently established the Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) detection protocol by PCR. She offered assistance to Cambodia by sharing the detection protocol as it was given to 40 requesters from 22 countries around the world.

Dr. Virapat commented that Cambodia reported about the country's country fish monitoring system in 10 provinces and asked if they also have target farms in each of those provinces. The country representative from Cambodia said that target farms from the selected provinces are those with high aquaculture activity and then was selected as they are located around the delta and the middle of Cambodia.

Dr. Reantaso commended the development in Cambodia especially the establishment of the fish disease-related department in agriculture. She also suggested for Cambodia to strive in attaining the highest level of diagnosis as possible. The reason why levels were created by FAO and other partners is for all countries in Asia who has varying socioeconomic levels will have an entry point in doing diseases diagnosis.

Mr. Sato inquired about operation and staff capacity of the Marine Aquaculture Research and Development Center (MARDeC) which was presented by Cambodia as an important part of its fish health and diseases control management. Country representative of Cambodia answered that the staff are capable of levels 1 and 2 diagnoses and the Center is not yet doing level 3. He also mentioned that the Center are receiving funds from the European Union (EU) and central government which enables the Center to assist the fish farmers in diseases diagnosis.

Speaking of viral nervous necrosis (VNN), *Dr. Suprane Chinabut* from Thailand asked the method of diagnosis for Cambodia if they are enable to do level 3 diagnosis. Country representative from Cambodia said that VNN diagnosis is being done through PCR.

Indonesia

Mrs. Mukti Sri Hastuti, country representative of Indonesia, presented the emergency preparedness and response system in Indonesia.¹

Indonesia mentioned their efforts in surveillance, monitoring, and reporting. As per *Dr. Virapat*, the details of reporting were clear. He proceeded by requesting Indonesia to clarify the difference between surveillance and monitoring and if the same set of officers do the work. Country representative from Indonesia that monitoring is passive surveillance as data is collected from the district office and its staff. As for surveillance, there is an active collection of sample involved done by the headquarters.

Dr. Diana Chee Lijun, from Aquaculture Technology Department of Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore, mentioned about the online reporting system described in the presentation and request clarification on the following: (1) actual level of usage of the system; (2) willingness of the farmers in using the system; (3) accuracy of results; and (4) process of obtaining results from the diagnosis tests done through the system. Country representative from Indonesia mentioned that the system is being operated

from the district office by an official. She explained that samples are taken for diagnosis in a quarantine lab and farmers access the website directly to view the results online.

As Indonesia is one of the top aquaculture producers in the world despite being challenged by Koi herpes virus, infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV), TiLV, and other shrimp diseases as reported in local literature. *Dr. Reantaso* requested to share important lessons learned throughout the years since there's improvement in Indonesia's awareness and preparedness against the mentioned diseases. Country representative of Indonesia mentioned that early warning was one of the most important steps to do upon outbreak of diseases followed by quick response. She also mentioned the importance of consistent implementation of good aquaculture practices by the farmers.

Noting the commitment of Indonesian government in addressing aquatic animal health issues throughout the years, *Dr. Reantaso* asked if Indonesia placed an emergency funding mechanism. Country representative from Indonesia wasn't able to put a mechanism in place due to a change that happened in the organization that impacted its implementation.

Mr. Warren Andrew Turner, aquaculture farmer from Thailand, requested for an actual example of a successful early warning system that prevented the spread of the disease in Indonesia. Country representative from Indonesia set the efforts of the country in preventing acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND). She mentioned how the government quickly do public warnings and have on-the-spot communication with shrimp farmers (e.g. giving out brochures) and implemented GAP.

Dr. Satoshi Miwa, country representative from Japan, presented the fish disease control in Japan.¹

Dr. Jing Wang, Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE-RRAP), mentioned that Japan has information on unknown diseases. She inquired on what do Japan do with those unknown diseases and outbreak, how are the farmers educated, and how is it diagnosed. Country representative of Japan said that since Japan has 30-40 cases of unknown diseases and outbreaks, it would be tasking to do educational activity on each. However, he mentioned that some of it are very important since it occurs almost yearly. In such case, research about prevention of diseases and efforts in dissemination of knowledge are being done prior to educating the fish farmers.

Dr. Reantaso inquired if there are more aquatic veterinarians, who are licensed and are competent in aquatic diseases, in Japan now. Country representative from Japan said that there's not much as prefectural government usually do not hire licensed veterinarians for fisheries research laboratories. This is because the prefectural government wish to hire people who graduated fishery science as they have a general knowledge of fisheries since they are usually moved from managing issues on fish health to stock enhancement and even reproduction.

Dr. Puttharat Baoprasertkul, Head of Aquatic Animal Health Certification Research and Development Group in Department of Fisheries-Thailand, asked if National Research Institute of Aquaculture (NRIA) provide proficiency test (PT) to other international laboratories. This is due to the difficulty in getting PT for aquatic animal health laboratories at the moment. Country representative from Japan confirmed that they provide PT within Japan however, they can provide PT on Koi herpes virus and red sea bream iridovirus to international laboratories upon request.

Japan has a Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) that has a tsunami warning system and for other related issues, *Dr. Virapat* asked if they are using the same model for early warning in diseases. Country representative of Japan replied in negative stating that there is no such system in Japan as of the moment.

Ms. Yi Yi Cho, Fishery Officer from Department of Fisheries in Myanmar, asked if impact assessment had been done for unknown diseases and if records on mortality is available. To which, country representative of Japan answered that conducting impact assessment in unknown diseases is impossible.

Dr. Amar asked for a general recommendation or warning if unknown disease or outbreaks occurs. Country representative of Japan stated that in their experience since unknown disease are usually from foreign countries hence it is impossible to prevent. Usually, it is caused by parasites which are benign in country of origin and when transported to a different area and hit a different species it can trigger a

devastating effect. For example, parasitic disease in flounders which are benign in Atlantic Ocean caused disease outbreak in flounders as it reached Japanese waters. Occurrences of such disease is very difficult to expect since its existence is not known yet. Even for potential threats, it cannot be stopped by quarantine since it can only be made, according to OIE rule, when a parasite is well- and scientifically-established as a causative of a certain disease.

Dr. Kyaw Naing Oo, Director of Livestock Zone in Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Myanmar, asked how severe are the mentioned unknown diseases in Japan. Country representative of Japan said that when white spot syndrome diseases and red sea bream iridovirus first came to the country it was an unknown disease and it caused quite severe effects.

As a follow-up, *Dr. Oo* asked if there's any regulation to control the unknown diseases and how to do the country continue following the outbreak. Country representative from Japan said that research is being conducted when causes of severe diseases became apparent. As per stated in Japan's guidelines, reporting of the diseases to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) is required. Prior the report of the prefectural government, NRIA and MAFF already gather information about the diseases. In one case, MAFF assembled experts' committee for the disease prevention as well as provide funding to study the disease. Conference on the particular disease are being conducted to educate the people and prevent the disease from spreading.

Malaysia

Dr. de la Peña served as moderator for the second part of technical session 1.

Dr. Kua Beng Chu, country representative of Malaysia, presented the emergency preparedness and response system for aquatic animal diseases in Malaysia.¹

Mr. Francis Daniel Fegan, aquaculture farmer from Thailand, wished to know the timeline of diseases outbreak investigation process from identification of unusual happening to giving alerts to stakeholders. Country representative of Malaysia answered that it usually takes 2-3 days, if the case is quite severe, for the group would be on the ground for investigation. However, if the case is based on hearsay, it might take time to confirm the diseases depending on the available information gathered. The capability of the biosecurity division in the area can also affect the response time. Overall, it takes about 1-2 months until the response system.

Still on the topic of response system, *Mr. Turner* requested for an example of a disease that was able to contain before it spreads around Malaysia. Country representative of Malaysia said that most reported diseases, aside from IMNV, were contained. She referred to an IMNV case in 2014 that occurred in an isolated area where they had to do a contingency plan. At present, monitoring is still ongoing.

Dr. Virapat asked if the national focal point is the Director-General (DG) of Department of Fisheries. Country representative of Malaysia said that the DG chairs the Emergency Disease Task Force Committee. The DG chairs the meetings and make decisions based on the information gathered for the Fishery Biosecurity Division and Research and Development Division. Also depending on the situation and information gathered, he will either alert and mobilize federal committee (situation involves more than two states) and state committee (if it only involved issue within the state).

Dr. Reantaso gave a remark for Malaysia and other countries doing surveillance. She stated that surveillance is not only for the purpose of reporting since data can be used in for to generate information e.g. presence and absence of disease in which species, which location, and the risk factors. This information should be turned into risk management measures and forecasts. She commended Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia for having very good surveillance system. She advised to use it to protect uninfected areas from outbreaks. Country representative from Malaysia agreed with proper use of surveillance data in disease control measures.

Myanmar

Dr. Kyaw Naing Oo, country representative of Myanmar, presented the status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response system for effective management of transboundary diseases outbreaks in Myanmar.¹

Dr. Reantaso commented on the Myanmar's requesting assistance in developing a quarantine system. She advised that if a country is going to import live aquatic animal, risk analysis should be done and management measures that will be put at the borders (from the country of origin, pre-border, and post-boarder) will follow. The process mentioned will then conclude whether quarantine is necessary. She mentioned that direct quarantine is not the bottomline but only part of the biosecurity measure.

Dr. Toe Nandar Tin, private sector of Myanmar, shared that Myanmar, particularly in the private sector, are previously doing traditional aquaculture methods which does not need much maintenance. Starting this year onwards, methods will be modernized by transforming the aquaculture sector through the use of modern culture systems used in the other countries. She mentioned that the change was brought by the present aquaculture status of the country. This would include managing transboundary diseases (*e.g.* white spot) to avoid major production losses. She also mentioned that the reason she was interested in the Consultation is to learn about effective measure to control transboundary diseases from other countries.

Dr. Leño mentioned that Myanmar, based on the 2016 production data, is top seven (previously 10th in 2014) in aquaculture production in the world. He also explained that introduction of modern aquaculture technology can cause challenges and Myanmar can learn from other countries *e.g.* Viet Nam and Thailand which experienced problems with diseases before. Learning from previous experiences of other countries can avoid major losses in cost and eventual collapse of the industry. He advised that private sectors, as well as the government, should work together to manage diseases especially in turning traditional farming systems into a modern one. He commended Myanmar as the country is now being seen as the next Viet Nam in terms of aquaculture production. He wished to have a more responsible and sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in the future.

Dr. Reantaso was pleased that private sector and the government is talking about working together. She explained how crucial the partnership is especially that aquaculture development and biosecurity is now being pursued and achieved together and not separately. She shared that in the past, stakeholders are reactive when it comes to biosecurity instead of being proactive. She commended Myanmar's effort in putting biosecurity in place parallel to aquaculture development which is the first in developing countries.

Philippines

Dr. Sonia Somga, country representative of Philippines, presented the aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary diseases in the Philippines.¹

Dr. Reantaso commended the advancement in reporting through registrations and other established systems that were presented. However, she suggested that the data collected and reported should be used to form early warning systems. She suggested, addressed to all countries doing disease outbreak investigation, to do post-mortem activities (*e.g.* to sit down and examine what have been done during outbreaks and discuss gaps and lapses) shortly after every outbreak that had occurred. *Dr. Reantaso* then assured the participants that the Consultation is the perfect venue to discuss how to move forward in countering emerging diseases.

Mr. Turner, as an aquaculture farmer, shares his experience in disease outbreaks especially in TiLV. He mentioned that in Israel, the disease already exists for 10 years and probably more in the other parts of the world however it was only recently identified by using PCRs. He expressed that the process is too long because when the solution was finally found, damages in farms were already done. Subsequently, he noted that biosecurity measures *e.g.* foot and tire bath can only do so much since there's no solution for flying insects, amphibians and reptiles which are also vectors in spreading diseases. He then suggested that the government sectors to create laws and regulations based on the real experiences of farmers.

Dr. Reantaso, in support of the concerns expressed by *Mr. Turner*, expressed that authorities should be more creative in assisting the stakeholders through active producer engagement. Each country may have different ways to do things but she is hopeful that assistance could be given to producers.

Country representative from the Philippines noted *Mr. Turner's* concerns and shared that in the Philippines when farmers asked for assistance during outbreaks and by the time officers arrived the stocks are already fully-infected especially in shrimp diseases *e.g.* WSSV and AHPND that spread quite fast. What regulatory officers do following the incident is promoting the prevention of diseases and putting up biosecurity measures in the farms to control significant pathogens. She also noted that early detection is very important.

Dr. Leñaño expressed that aquatic diseases cannot be solved alone and he then encouraged collaboration of all sectors including academe, research institution, private and the government. He cited Indonesia's operational public-private partnership that prevented the entry of APHND and TiLV.

Singapore

Dr. Teo Xuan Hui, country representative of Singapore, presented the status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response system in Singapore.¹

Dr. Wang suggested for Singapore to report emerging diseases to OIE-WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System) as per Aquatic Animal Code chapter 1.1, article 1.1.4. She encouraged all member countries to notify for emergent diseases because important diseases like TiLV is still not OIE-listed disease.

Dr. Senapin asked if Singapore has a detection method for viral disease. She mentioned that Singapore has qPCR which detected diseases in seabass, a potential economic species in the region including Thailand, hence the method could help the country for early detection of the virus. Country representative of Singapore answered in the affirmative.

Dr. Virapat wished to elaborate on the early warning system, particularly information dissemination, for export of ornamental fish. Country representative from Singapore explained that all exports consignments should have export permits and undergo health inspection to prove that it is free of clinical signs. Requirements of imported countries should also be completed and secured. He cited it as an early warning system for other countries (country of destination) because once detection happened during health inspection or pre-export testing prior export, it serves as a warning for them.

Dr. Virapat asked who receives the information (*e.g.* national focal point) on the other end and country representative of Singapore said that in the case of exportation, the country has counterparts (in-charge of export/import) in receiving countries and not the national aquatic focal point.

Thailand

Miss Jaree Polchana, country representative of Thailand, presented the aquatic emergency preparedness and response system in Thailand.¹

Viet Nam

Ms. Bui Viet Hang, country representative of Viet Nam, presented the aquatic emergency preparedness and response system in Viet Nam.¹

Dr. Virapat asked if the farmer is willing to provide information when diseases was detected on his farm. Country representative of Viet Nam responded that local authorities are being notified when there's diseases outbreaks. Local authorities then take samples for reporting to the province.

Dr. Virapat asked if farmers have positive attitude in providing information of disease outbreaks. Country representative of Viet Nam answered that farmers are not happy to share information before however,

there's been a change recently upon realization that agencies and authorities are willing to help them solve the problem.

b. Technical Session 2: Plenary Presentation. Importance of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary disease outbreaks based on primary accounts documented at the global or regional level

Dr. Baoprasertkul served as moderator for technical session 2.

Dr. Chris Chiesa, Deputy Executive Director of Pacific Disaster Center, presented the “Component of Implementation Strategies for Effective Hazard Monitoring and Early Warning.”¹

Mr. Fegan asked how to use epidemiology to assess and assign risks and other activities that will follow. *Dr. Chiesa* explained that in the system for hazard monitoring, factors such as hazard occurrences patterns, demographics, structures (land-area, foundation of buildings) and other categories are being considered. He explained that the same process can be applied to create early warning systems for disease outbreaks. Factors will be alternated with exposed population (*e.g.* aquatic animals), vulnerability (*e.g.* cultured species are much susceptible to diseases than the wild), among others. Monitoring activities can be create following the identification of risk factors.

Noting that PDC worked with the Myanmar government, *Dr. Toe* asked which industry was involved and if the system can be used in fish farms. *Dr. Chiesa* mentioned that PDC had been working with Myanmar's Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) as their department focal points. He also expressed his interest in working with the private aquaculture sector of Myanmar to share information.

Dr. Virapat asked if it is possible to develop a system, like the one developed by PDC for natural disasters, that could help in disease outbreaks, surveillance and monitoring. For example, a software that could tell history of outbreaks and mapping of existing diseases which can be updated in real-time since NACA and SEAFDEC has many member countries and information should be disseminated quickly. *Dr. Chiesa* believed that the system can be adopted in the described scenario. He explained that historical data and archiving are possible and that body of knowledge can be accessed by member countries in a few clicks. As for real-time monitoring, since outbreaks are being reported in a different speed as natural disaster, it can still be reported but at a different pace. However, if standard operating procedures of member countries improved, the system can be enhanced. He also expressed his willingness to do a workshop in converting the existing software into a helpful device to monitor disease outbreaks.

Regarding reporting time-scale as diagnosis takes longer than identification of natural hazards, *Dr. Amar* asked on how can reporting be enhanced to suit PDC's system. *Dr. Chiesa* suggested have a level of severity, as for natural disaster the levels include informational, confirmed, etc., and it could be similar for reporting severity of diseases. All data can be mapped and patterned like how droughts is being monitored.

Dr. Reantaso asked whether the aspect of doing a retrospective analysis of disease reports that started 18 years ago. The reports are rich in data that could help in understanding the pattern and the trends of disease outbreaks. She mentioned that while the data is rich, the analysis of data is what was lacking in the region. *Dr. Chiesa* believes that the data in reports can be a good starting point in analyzing outbreak trends. It could be used to created time-series data and report incidence to map the patterns (*e.g.* season-related outbreaks) and immediately clue the causes.

Mr. Turner pointed the limitations of using the software as farmers tends to be afraid of reporting outbreaks especially if their farms are the disease's ground zero. He also mentioned that there's no incentive (*e.g.* funding support or in form of assistance) in reporting the outbreak which also makes farmers uncooperative. *Dr. Chiesa* suggested to make the software a closed system which is exclusive to farmers, decision makers, science community and other key players.

Dr. Eduardo Leño, Aquatic Animal Health Programme Coordinator from NACA, presented “Transboundary Aquatic Animal Diseases: History and Impacts in ASEAN Aquaculture.”¹

Mr. Turner commented that TiLV started in 2008 (*Dr. Leñaño* chimed in saying that it was only called ‘summer mortality disease of tilapia’) but was only identified in 2017. He noted that initial identification takes a long time which makes immediate response impossible. Subsequently, he suggested to find a cure, if not to stop the disease entirely, at least slow down the spreading of the virus. *Dr. Leñaño* answered that what *Mr. Turner* mentioned is part of the biosecurity programs planned for ASEAN countries. He then suggested for farms to be proactive rather than reactive. He subsequently requested for farms to be more cooperative in reporting outbreaks, as some of these outbreak reports doesn’t reach the right authority.

Mr. Fegan shared that in the early years of white spot outbreaks, the risk factors had been observed in the farm level by application of epidemiology principles before it was even identified as a virus. He suggested to give more emphasis on the application of epidemiology principle in the early stages of the disease outbreaks to hasten the response and control. *Dr. Leñaño* agreed with the suggested.

Since it was established that live feed is a factor in disease transmission in the region, *Mr. Fegan* asked on how the exportation and trade of live feeds monitored and if it can be quarantined. *Dr. Leñaño* said that live feeds are not being quarantined when exported to other countries. He also mentioned that live feeds are now being produced within the country such as polychaetes. However, he also mentioned that trading of polychaetes is very popular in the region without proper quarantine system. It now being speculated that AHPND was caused by trading bacteria-infested polychaetes. It is still a big discussion that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Jing Wang, OIE-RRAP in Tokyo, presented “Aquatic Animal Diseases: Trade Implication.”¹

Mr. Fegan asked what actions can OIE take to encourage countries in fulfilling their obligation in reporting information. He also noted that there are instances where countries may not report disease outbreaks and also some instances that other institutions, aside from the government, are not allowed to report. *Dr. Wang* answered that OIE is not only doing passive surveillance (awaiting reports from countries) but is also doing active surveillance (scientific journals and papers from scientists). Even reports coming straight from the farmers are being scanned, confirmed through focal points in each member countries, and included in the WAHIS interface. She also mentioned that there’s miscommunication between OIE focal points and the ministry or departments which is also being addressed by creating a platform (e.g. meetings) between focal points and officials to discuss OIE matters, among others.

Dr. Toe expressed that Myanmar was banned in exporting carps to Saudi Arabia based on OIE reports despite the diseases is non-existent in the country. *Dr. Wang* said that it might be a bilateral issue and she reiterated that OIE Standard only provides the guidelines in trade. In the case of Myanmar, the two countries should create a communication mechanism and bilateral meeting. She suggested that the OIE general meeting is a perfect venue for country delegates to sit together and discuss lifting the ban.

Dr. Seangchan Senapin, Deputy Director of Centex Shrimp, presented “Emergency response to emerging diseases: TiLV in Tilapia.”¹

Dr. Miwa commended *Dr. Senapin*’s presentation and inquired about the outbreak that occurred in 2012 with unidentified virus. He asked if this is due to the nature of the virus or the cause of mortality. *Dr. Senapin* that there was a significant mortality during the outbreak but there were no signs of bacterial infection.

Mr. Turner reiterated that the discovery or identification of new diseases in the region should be improved to hasten the aid when outbreaks once again occur in the region.

Mr. Amorn Luengnaruemitchai, aquaculture farmer from Thailand, addressed that TiLV might not be an emerging disease but was only discovered and identified once a suitable equipment became available – as gathered in the technical sessions. He also mentioned that susceptibility to diseases cannot be generalized in all species of tilapia since in his experience in production, the red tilapia is more susceptible to TiLV. In his observation, this is due to red tilapia’s overproduction.

Dr. Desrina Haryadi, from the Fisheries Department of Diponegoro University in Indonesia, commended the presentation and asked it is possible for the virus to exist and not cause any mortality meaning the pathogen is not the cause of mortality but external factors did *e.g.* temperature, water quality, among others. *Dr. Senapin* answered in the affirmative. She further explained that this is what they called asymptomatic infection wherein fish appeared to be healthy but is infected with the pathogen. Mortality could be caused by genotype and poor farm management. As for TiLV, *Dr. Senapin* believed that a lot needs to be done in terms of research.

Dr. Chinabut shared that it used to be hard to find diseases in tilapia until the industry boomed. Diseases *e.g.* *Streptococcus* first came and was followed by other pathogens. She suggested to focus on the ways forward on how to prevent tilapia diseases. Efforts should include collaboration with both public and private sectors together with research community.

Dr. Kallaya Sritunyalucksana, researcher from BIOTEC, presented “Emergency response to emerging disease: AHPND in shrimp.”¹

Dr. Reantaso commended the effort of *Dr. Kallaya*’s team in establishing a network of researchers and research institutions. She suggested for the network to think on how the scientific findings can be applied in the farm level as it adds value to the collected data. *Dr. Sritunyalucksana* noted of the suggestion and said that the group also realized on how to make the findings useful to the stakeholders. In fact, the group is already working with the local farmers on the device to detect white spot and AHPND through optimization process however, it was only newly introduced. There is also a schedule for some of the members to go and present the findings to the farmers. She expressed how laymanizing the findings can be difficult however it is always interesting to learn on how explain the information to them and apply the findings to their farms. Findings are also published in local (in Thai language) magazines to reach local readers.

Dr. Amar agreed that the practical side of the research should be disseminated to the farmers *e.g.* proper use of probiotics in shrimp farms. He expressed that before he thought that plasmid is only present in *Vibrio harveyi* and now was reported to exist in *Micrococcus* which means there’s no guarantee that it won’t transfer to other bacteria *e.g.* probions. *Dr. Kallaya* agreed with the statement.

Mr. Fegan expressed the need for farmers to be properly educated on what is the right probiotic to be used in different farm conditions. *Dr. Kallaya* agreed that it would be a good program to start.

Dr. Melba Reantaso, Aquaculture Officer from FAO’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, presented two topics (1) “**Risk analysis in aquaculture**” and (2) “**Emergency preparedness and response and contingency plans as a component of an Aquatic Animal Health Management and Biosecurity Strategy.**”¹

Dr. Leño expressed that financial inadequacy might be the main reason why risk assessment was not conducted with this he asked if how expensive or cheap it is to do such task. *Dr. Reantaso* estimated the costs to USD 60,000. She suggested for countries to have basic knowledge on risk analysis even if they’ve hired consultants. *Dr. Leño* said that risk assessment is an investment since it costs cheaper and is easier than control the problem when it already existed.

Dr. Reantaso suggested for APEC member countries to approach APEC to provide support in capacity building for risk analysis.

For TiLV, *Dr. Kua* asked if which is more appropriate import risk analysis or impact risk analysis. *Dr. Reantaso* answered that both are important, noting that impact risk analysis is done when the risk is already there.

Dr. Virapat commended *Dr. Reantaso* for presenting useful tools for risk analysis. He requested *Dr. Reantaso* for advice in dealing with small-scale farmers on how to deal with risk analysis since they might lack the knowledge of the guidelines. With this, *Dr. Reantaso* suggested to train more extension officers as they are the link between government, science community and the fish farmers. She cited the United States of America’s good training and utilization of their extension officers. She also mentioned that

farmers also inherit knowledge that the government and the science community don't know yet still they should learn the basic of risk analysis since diseases constantly changes.

- c. **Technical Session 3.** Workshop to identify gaps, policy recommendations, and priority areas for R&D collaboration to address these gaps

The participants were divided into three groups for discussions. The workshop was facilitated by *Dr. Reantaso*, co-facilitated by *Dr. Leaño* and assisted by *Dr. Amar*. Leaders of each group presented the findings during discussions.¹

Dr. Reantaso then summarized the findings as part of the way forward.

IV. CLOSING SESSIONS

Mr. Sato delivered the closing remarks and officially closed the Consultation.

¹ Presentations are available on <https://www.seafdec.org.ph/2018/asean-rtc-on-aeprs/>

Way Forward

By Dr. Melba Reantaso

The overall objective of this technical consultation is to bring together the representatives of ASEAN Member States and technical experts to examine the status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems currently being practiced in the region in order to identify gaps and other initiatives for regional cooperation. In general sense, *Dr. Reantaso* commented that the RTC is successful in achieving the general objective.

As for the specific objectives, (a) to assess existing laws, legislations and standard operating procedures (SOPs), among others had been partially achieved. This is because the consultation didn't assess but was only informed (through the reports of country representatives) of the current situation ASEAN Member States. The way forward of this is to complete the Emergency Preparedness and Response System (EPRS) audit questionnaire as basis of the more systematic assessment. The second objective is (b) to assess the need for a regional aquatic EPRS in the ASEAN, the participant voted in the affirmative. The way forward of this is to create an ASEAN guidelines including the mechanics. The third objective is to (c) enhance cooperation among Member States, regional/international organizations and other relevant stakeholders on initiatives that support aquatic EPRS for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks. This objective has been achieved. The way forward for this is to get the same people for a planned and proposed consultation II for continuity and for emphasis on more private sector and academe representation.

During the two full days of consultation, the following information were gathered:

1. Common issues presented are on communication, funding, stakeholder consultation, risks analysis, and lack of information, planning and system. *Dr. Reantaso* mentioned that these should be captured in the report of the consultation and in the proposed ASEAN guidelines on EPRS as part of the situational analysis and guiding principles.
2. Regular meetings, more funding, and trust between government and private sectors in disclosing information are the top recommendations in establishing a functional and effective engagement on EPRS between government, producers and academic sectors.

Plan of action

1. To complete the EPRS audit questionnaires as basis for a systematic assessment which will be done by SEAFDEC/AQD and member countries.
2. To develop the ASEAN EPRS guidelines including the mechanics which will be led by SEAFDEC/AQD, supported by ANAAHC and Consultation partners. The process of the developing the guidelines are the following:
 - a. Use the analysis as a reference point
 - b. Form a working group that will develop the scope and content. The zero draft will be circulated to participants including external experts (peer review)
 - c. Information, analysis and synthesis in the working group matrix will be captured in the guideline either in the situational analysis or guiding principle or actual guidelines.
 - d. Organize a writeshop to popularize and refine the guidelines including country-level implementation and monitoring
3. To organize a part two of the consultation to present the guidelines for refinement and consensus. It is also recommended that the consultation II will not be limited as a workshop but will be an actual capacity building on preliminary guidelines implementation. The following themes are suggested:
 - a. Simulation exercise;
 - b. Database registry analysis of surveillance data, experts, laboratories, preparation of contingency plans for high-profile disease, aquatic epidemiology, risk analysis pathology, etc. including private sector leads;
 - c. This is will be taken to ASEAN process for endorsement and approval

4. To get the same people for a planned and proposed consultation II for continuity and for emphasis on more private sector and academe representation. It was suggested to keep the AEPRS network including member countries, producers, academe and institutional partners. ANAAHC and the member countries will be responsible of this.
5. In order to accomplish the aforementioned plans, the consultation should develop a concept note or proposal to member countries, donors and explore new ways for resource generation and mobilization to support all activities. This will be the responsibility of member countries and Consultation I partners.

Draft Regional Technical Guidelines for Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies

I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture production in Southeast Asia has grown rapidly over the last two decades contributing approximately 10% of the annual world aquaculture production. However, irresponsible aquaculture practices including the transfer of aquatic species, particularly farmed stocks carrying pathogens, has brought about the emergence of infectious diseases thereby posing serious threats to the sustainability of aquaculture in the region. One of the infectious diseases that recently impacted the shrimp industry in the region was the acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) or popularly known as early mortality syndrome (EMS). AHPND outbreaks in cultured penaeids in Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Philippines significantly led to low production and concomitant economic losses. The pressing situation on AHPND in cultured shrimp in the region at that time spurred the organization of a consultative meeting, *i.e.* ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on EMS/AHPND and Other Transboundary Diseases for Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management in Southeast Asia, funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), on 22-24 February 2016 in Makati, Philippines. The RTC was not only instrumental in assessing the current status of EMS/AHPND and other emerging diseases in farmed shrimps in ASEAN Member States (AMSs) but also facilitated the identification of gaps and priority areas for research and development collaboration. Notably, the consultation was pivotal in the formulation of Regional Policy Recommendations, which among others, focused on emergency preparedness and response systems (EPRS) for managing aquatic animal disease outbreaks in the region.

EPRS are comprised of contingency planning arrangements that can minimize the impacts of serious aquatic animal disease. Establishing a harmonized aquatic EPRS among AMSs would certainly warrant a solid platform for an effective and prompt decision-making with clearly defined responsibilities and authority.

II. AIM AND PURPOSE

This set of guidelines is developed to help national regulators and stakeholders in responding to and managing suspected outbreaks of emergency aquatic animal diseases; thus improve national emergency preparedness in order to maximize the efficiency of response to serious outbreaks of aquatic animal diseases.

This document aims to provide guidance to Competent Authorities (CAs) in the decision-making and in issuing regulations that can minimize the impacts of serious aquatic disease occurrence and/or outbreaks through containment or eradication or mitigation whether at the regional, national, or farm level. It is envisaged that a harmonized guidelines for aquatic EPRS among AMS is developed.

The purpose of this set of guidelines is to enumerate the actions to be undertaken by the AMS in case of the occurrence of known, unknown, existing, emerging or re-emerging disease(s).

The guidelines was based on the analysis of the FAO Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems audit for aquatic animal diseases completed by the AMS.

III. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Aquaculture

Science, art and business of cultivating aquatic organism under controlled condition.

Aquaculturist

A person who engages in the aquaculture.

Competent Authority (CA)

A body or organisation legally qualified or sufficient to perform an act such as regulation, organisation, certification, and etc.

Containment

Action of keeping the disease and pathogen within specified zones with controls in place around infected zones to prevent spread to uninfected populations within the country or straddling neighbouring borders.

Disease

An abnormal occurrence displayed by living organisms through a common characteristics (signs), or sets of characteristics.

Eradication

Initial destruction of disease with eventual total elimination of the pathogen from an affected population, including sub-clinical infections if they occur. This is the highest level of response but may not always be possible, especially where the disease was well-established prior to the initial detection (*i.e.* where early detection has essentially failed), intermediate or carrier hosts are unknown, or the source of the infection is unknown.

Fish Health Officer (FHO)

A person legally qualified or sufficient to perform an act that will diagnose cause of disease.

Mitigation

Reduction of the impacts of the pathogen by implementing control measures at the farm, or affected population, level that reduce the occurrence and severity of disease. These measures focus on stocks within the infected zone, and concentrate on long-term circumvention of disease losses, either through development of treatments or husbandry techniques. These measures are based on failed eradication attempts or epidemiological risk assessments indicating that eradication efforts are unfeasible or impractical.

Occurrence

An event especially something that is not expected to happen.

Outbreak

A sudden increase in occurrences of a disease in a particular time and place.

Pathogen

A biological agent that causes disease or illness to its host.

IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Competent Authority (CA)

The CA is responsible for the following:

- a) Technical, diagnostic capacity and capability relevant to aquatic health in the country.
- b) Coordinate with other relevant agencies within the country.
- c) Approval and/or registration of aquaculture premises.
- d) Approval and/or registration of third party aquatic health diagnostic laboratory.
- e) Create awareness among aquaculturists through extension and awareness programs.
- f) Communicate with other AMS.
- g) Monitoring and surveillance for OIE listed and other significant and emerging aquatic animal diseases in the country.
- h) Implement enforcement activities for non-compliance to national practice and/or legislations.

4.2 Fish Health Officer (FHO)

The FHO is responsible for the following:

- a) Recognize a suspected disease emergency.
- b) Carry out diagnostic procedures.
- c) Report findings to the appropriate provincial or national authority responsible for declaring a disease emergency and declaring a response.

4.3 Aquaculturist

The Aquaculturist should be able to:

- a) Recognize a suspected disease emergency at farm level.
- b) Report disease occurrence and/ or outbreak to appropriate authorities.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Aquaculturist inform FHO or extension worker about disease occurrence/outbreak in the pond.
- b) FHO or extension worker inform CA about disease occurrence/ outbreak in the pond
- c) CA reports disease occurrence/outbreak to NACA and OIE.
- d) Consultation done semi-annual meetings with aquatic animal health professionals and relevant agencies, academe, researchers, industry representatives.
- e) There is direct line of communication from the regional counterparts to the national authority for reporting suspected disease agents of concern.

VI. OPERATIONAL COMPONENTS

6.1 Early Warning System

- a) CA monitors aquatic animal disease occurrence/outbreak in other countries (such as through the internet, scientific literatures, aquatic animal health newsletters, e-mail discussion groups, conference attendance) and relay the information to local aquaculturists.
- b) CA checks and reports disease occurrence/outbreak to Network of Aquaculture Centers In Asia Pacific (NACA) or World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

6.2 Early Detection System

- a) Immediate recognition of signs of disease, or an emerging disease situation, or unexplained mortality, in aquatic animals at farm level by the aquaculturist.
- b) Aquaculturist immediately communicates the event to the FHO or CA.
- c) FHO or CA conducts diagnostic investigation with minimal delay. FHO or CA should have access to laboratories with the expertise and facilities required to diagnose and differentiate listed and emerging diseases from endemic or benign infections.

6.2.1 Risk analysis

- a) CA conducts risk analysis to identify high priority aquatic disease threats.
- b) CA identifies farm level risk factors.

6.2.2 Disease surveillance

- a) CA conducts passive surveillance for targeted and non-targeted diseases.
- b) CA conducts active surveillance for targeted diseases.

6.3 Early Response System

- a) At pond/farm level
 - i. Aquaculturist, FHO, fisheries extension officers introduce measures to contain or control disease prior to disease diagnosis.
 - ii. Aquaculturist provides FHO or CA with information on disease signs, as well as any movement of live animals prior to disease occurrence/outbreak.
 - iii. FHO or CA recommends actions that would rapidly and effectively contain, and then possibly eliminate an emergency disease outbreak, and mitigate its effect or prevent it from spreading and becoming an uncontrollable epizootic.
 - iv. FHO, fishery extension officer, CA assists and ensures the implementation of recommended control measures to prevent disease spread, both prior to and after disease diagnosis.
 - v. FHO or CA coordinates control measures between farmers, both affected and non-affected.
- b) At national level
 - i. CA confirm the disease diagnosis with the reference laboratory.
 - ii. CA identifies risks factors based on reported disease scenario.
 - iii. CA defines disease zones based on data from reporting laboratories.
 - iv. CA initiates information, education and communication (IEC) campaign.
 - v. CA recommends Contingency Plans.

VII. COMPONENTS OF CONTINGENCY PLANS

A contingency plan is a documented work plan designed to ensure that all needed actions, requirements and resources are provided in order to eradicate or bring under control outbreaks of infectious diseases of significance to aquatic animal productivity and/or market access. Contingency plans are refined on a regular basis through simulation exercises and personnel are trained in their individual roles and responsibilities.

7.1 Summary document

The CA prepares a summary document presenting an overview of the national approach for contingency planning for serious aquatic animal diseases. The information is concisely and clearly presented, such that it can be easily understood by all stakeholders.

7.2 Support plans

7.2.1 Financial

- a) Necessary budget allocation for the emergency response is included in the annual budget.
- b) The national authority provides resources for preparedness and response activities.
- c) There is no system to compensate farmers on losses due to mandatory destruction.

7.2.2 Resource

- a) Resource plans and access to personnel/equipment/analysis from other laboratories are arranged, in advance; to avoid wasting time seeking approvals or negotiating conditions when an emergency is underway.
- b) Technical expertise in aquatic disease controls are available, but limited. Included as part of staff function.

7.2.3 Legislation

Applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and standards that concerns control measures during emergencies are available.

7.2.4 Other agencies

A major outbreak of a rapidly spreading, highly pathogenic disease may require the collaboration between different governmental departments and agencies, key private-sector organizations, and regional or international assistance and expertise.

7.3 Operational capability

7.3.1 Response management manuals

FHO follow the documented procedure on collection, packaging, transporting and sending samples to the laboratory.

7.3.2 Diagnostic resources

- a) Technical expertise in aquatic disease controls are available, but limited. Included as part of staff function.
- b) There are new staff/veterinarians hired that still needs to be trained since they lack knowledge in aquaculture and aquatic animal health.
- c) Continuous staff development is in the program.

7.3.3 Training resources/ field personnel

- a) FHOs prior to designation are required to undergo training on fish health management
- b) Resource persons are invited to conduct on-site workshops/ forum/trainings
- c) Formal non-degree training programs and regional institutions are available to provide short training course on fish health management given to designated government and industry personnel.

7.3.4 Awareness and education

FHOs attend trainings on aquatic animal health provided by other agencies or organizations such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), European Union (EU), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) initiatives.

7.3.5 Simulated response exercises

SOP's are being followed by the Fish Health Officers and Quarantine Officers in performing their tasks.

7.4 Technical plans

The CA prepares the technical plans which are sets of instructions or manuals, required to support the contingency plans. Some manuals are "generic" and can be applied to all/most disease emergencies; whereas others will need to be disease specific, taking into account the need for specialized expertise, partnerships or international coordination. The technical must include the private-sector for a cohesive coordination of effort.

7.4.1 Control Centers Management Manual

The Control Centers Management Manual outlines the organizational response during the investigation, alert, operational and stand-down phases of an aquatic animal disease emergency.

7.4.3 Destruction manual

The Destruction manual is an operational procedures manual to be used in instances where preventing the spread of a serious disease necessitates the efficient and humane killing of stock.

7.4.4 Disposal manual

The Disposal manual is an operational procedures manual that provides guidance on best practice for safe transport and disposal of carcasses, animal products and wastes.

7.4.5 Disease strategy manuals

Disease strategy manuals are a series of manuals that provide specific information needed for the recognition and control of individual diseases.

7.4.6 Job descriptions

- a) Job cards summarizing tasks (roles and responsibilities) of key personnel involved in EPRS for a rapid and effective response to a disease emergency.
- b) Alternates are designated and should be alerted and ready when a contingency plan is put into effect, whether for training or for a real-time exercise, in case key personnel cannot participate for reasons beyond their control.
- c) Contingency plan responsibilities are incorporated into the normal job description of key individuals.
- d) Personnel involved are authorized through Fisheries Office Order issued by the bureau Director.

VIII. Recovery from an emergency disease

8.1 Verification and international acceptance of disease freedom

- a) Prove that the affected population has regained freedom from the disease agent.
- b) Demonstrate that the country has a capable aquatic animal health service and relevant disease surveillance programs.
- c) Implement targeted surveillance using scientifically proven laboratory tests for both clinical and subclinical infections.
- d) Provide surveillance data as evidence of an effective surveillance program and diagnostic testing.

8.2 Rehabilitation of aquaculture facility

- a) The aquaculture facility should be rehabilitated to rebuild socio-economic losses and re-establish lost markets.
- b) Affected area should be repopulated with disease-free animals, usually an alternative species is used.

REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE ASEAN REGION

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region is the main output of the MFRD project on Cold Chain Management of Seafood. The guidelines have been developed following a series of participatory and consultative process and workshops involving fishery officials from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and cold chain trials that were implemented in each of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries organised under the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) Programmes. Consultations were done with various experts on cold chain management of fish and seafood quality assurance from Curtin University (Australia) and Sydney Fish Market. The guidelines were finalised and adopted by senior fishery officials from all member countries at the End-of-Project Meeting, held in April 2018, in Singapore.

The guidelines, which were drafted with the consensus of and in accordance to the collective inputs from all the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, will serve as a common platform and reference for member countries when implementing cold chain management for fish and fishery products. The guidelines comprise 5 chapters and an annex. The first three chapters serve as an introduction, comprising scope and overview, definitions of terms used in the guidelines, and a generic flow chart on the cold chain for fish and fishery products. The introductory chapters help to provide a basic understanding of the elements and focus of the guidelines. The remaining chapters provide the actual guidelines, highlighting the points at which cold chain management should be implemented, and how it can be implemented by the member countries. Critical points, as well as common challenges faced are also listed in these chapters, along with potential solutions. The Annexes contain information of controlling and monitoring techniques and technologies and microbial limits on materials used in the implementation of cold chain management. The final chapter is the references used in drafting these guidelines.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider and approve the Guidelines (**Appendix 1**) for further endorsement by the 27th ASWGFⁱ and high level meetings in order to promote and enhance the implementation of cold chain management system for fish and fishery products in the region.

Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region

I. BACKGROUND

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (2008) defines Cold Chain as “A term embracing the continuity of successively employed means to maintain the temperatures of foods, and appropriate, from receiving through processing, transport, storage, and retailing”. As affluence in the region continues to grow, demands for high quality food, and particularly seafood, also grows. Furthermore, as countries seek to facilitate and encourage more bilateral trade, it is not uncommon for goods to travel thousands of miles before reaching a market. However, fish and seafood are temperature sensitive and highly perishable commodities, with deterioration occurring almost immediately following catch or harvest. Fish and seafood deterioration can occur through microbiological metabolism, oxidative reactions, and enzymatic activity, which are processes that can be accelerated through poor temperature control. Cold chain management is an essential tool in maintaining and ensuring the quality and safety of fish and seafood, as well as its economic value.

Throughout the supply chain, the fisheries industry heavily relies on proper cold chain management practices to ensure the quality, safety and commercial viability of its products. From aquaculture production or wild catch, post-harvest handling, receiving, processing, packing, transport, to retail, it is essential to ensure there is no breakage in the cold chain to main high quality and safety of the seafood. Practices such as the application of ice, use of refrigerated seawater, storage in refrigerated facilities, and chilling or freezing, are used to ensure that the fish and seafood is kept under cold chain throughout the supply chain. However, these low temperature conditions must also be supported by good and hygienic handling practices, to effectively delay spoilage of the fish and seafood.

In the ASEAN region, fisheries industry players face many challenges in the implementation of a cold chain system. Firstly, many players in the fisheries industry are small-medium enterprises, with limited access to technologies and appropriate facilities, and lack knowledge of cold chain management practices. Furthermore, many fisheries supply chain systems in this region involve individual players who operate as single entities. Thus, even if businesses are able to procure facilities and technologies to apply cold chain management in the handling of fish and seafood, problems arise in maintaining the system throughout the supply chain. Finally, cold chain management practices are still largely voluntary in many ASEAN Member Countries, and are not enforced as a requirement.

In view of this, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), under its Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) Programmes, has initiated and implemented a project on the Cold Chain Management of Seafood from 2015-2017/18, of which this set of guidelines were developed in close consultation with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries. The project is in line with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution (20) and Plan of Action (D58 and D63), as endorsed at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference 2011. The goals of the project were to create a platform for the ASEAN region to share knowledge, experiences, and cost-effective technologies on the cold chain management of seafood, and to develop a set of guidelines for cold chain management of fish and fishery products to serve as a benchmark for ASEAN Member Countries when developing their own national guidelines.

II. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

Scope

The Guidelines cover the application and observation of time and temperature controls for the cold chain management of raw and minimally processed chilled and frozen fish and fishery products, along the stages of post-harvest handling, chilling, receiving, processing, freezing, glazing, packing, cold storage, transport and distribution, retail and wholesale.

Objective

The Guidelines aim to serve as a reference for best practices in cold chain management for raw and minimally processed chilled and frozen fish and fishery products to ensure safety, quality, and wholesomeness of such products.

III. DEFINITIONS

As used in the Guidelines, the following terms are defined as follows:

Chilling

The process of cooling fish and fishery products such that the core temperature is below 5°C.

Clean Water

Water from any source where harmful microbiological contamination, substances and/or toxic plankton are not present at such levels that may adversely affect the safety of fish and fishery products intended for human consumption.

Cold Chain

Consists of a series of operations involved in time and temperature controls in post-harvest handling, receiving, processing, freezing, glazing, packing, storing, transporting, and retail and wholesale of fresh, chilled and frozen fish and fishery products to ensure that food safety and quality is maintained.

Fish

Any of the cold blooded aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates intended for human consumption.

Fishery products

Any edible human food product in which fish is the characterising ingredient.

Fish and fishery products business

A business, enterprise or activity that involves the production and processing of fish and fishery products, intended for human consumption.

Fish and fishery products handler

A person who engages in the production and processing of fish and fishery products, intended for human consumption.

Glazing

Application of a protective layer of ice formed at the surface of a frozen product by spraying or dipping it into potable water, or potable water with approved additives, as appropriate.

Harvesting

The process which involves taking the fish out from water for human consumption.

Minimally Processed Products

Products derived from primary processing (*e.g.* washing, gutting, deboning, filleting, freezing, glazing, chilling and packaging), that does not fundamentally alter the raw fish or that only separate the whole, intact fish into components.

Post-Harvest Handling

Handling of fish that begins after fish is taken out from water for human consumption, prior to processing.

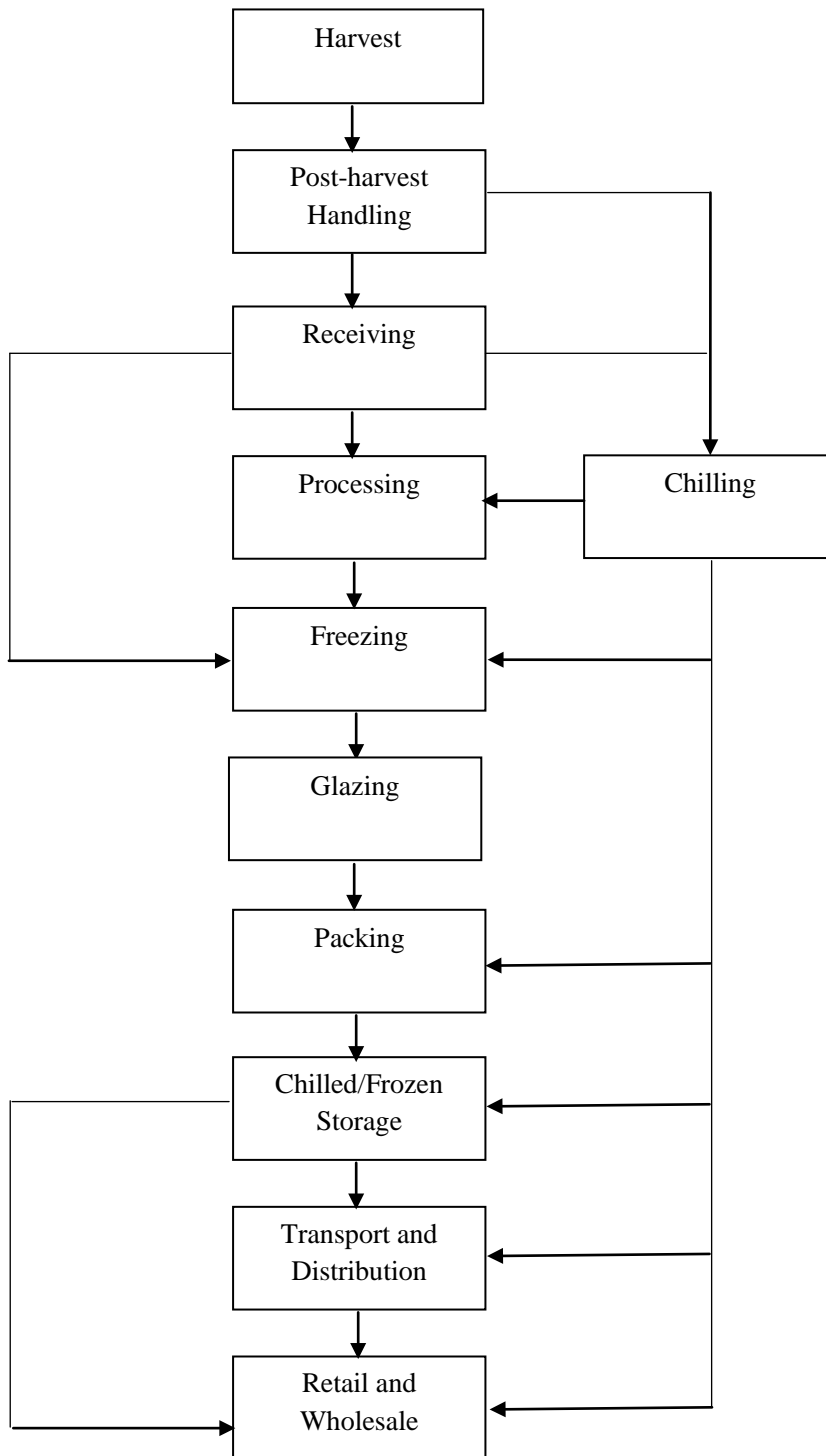
Potable Water

Fresh water fit for human consumption. Standard of potable water should not be lower than those contained in the latest edition of The International Standards for Drinking-Water issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Time and Temperature controls

The monitoring and maintaining of time and temperature of fish and the fishery products through the supply chain, to ensure safety and quality of products is maintained.

IV. GENERIC FLOW CHART ON COLD CHAIN FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS



V. PRODUCTION

Chilled fish and fishery products should be maintained below 5°C. During processing for short periods, temperature of fish and fishery products should not exceed 10°C, subject to national regulations.

The core temperature of frozen fish and fishery products should be maintained at a temperature of -18°C or below.

Monitoring, controlling and recording of time and temperature should be done regularly. All temperature monitoring devices should be calibrated as appropriate.

a. Post-harvest

(include on-board handling and harvest from aquaculture facilities)

The post-harvest operations should ensure that all measures are taken to maintain adequate time and temperature control for the fish and fishery products.

b. Receiving

Collecting

Fish and fishery product businesses should take all monitoring and recording measures to ensure it only accepts fish and fishery products that is under adequate time and temperature control at the point of receiving.

Fish and fishery product handlers should be competent in product safety and quality evaluation techniques, including time and temperature monitoring, to ensure raw fish and fishery products meet essential safety and quality provisions of the appropriate standard.

Sorting and grading

The facility for sorting and grading should be capable of maintaining time and temperature control of the fish. To minimise handling damage, fish and fishery products should be handled with care, particularly during sorting and grading in order to avoid physical damage such as puncture and mutilation. Where containers are used for sorting and grading of fish and fishery products, they should be cleaned and not overfilled. Sorting and grading should be carried out with minimal delay.

Holding

Fish and fishery products before and after processing need to be maintained under adequate time and temperature control.

Chilling

Fish and fishery products should be chilled and maintained below 5°C. Ice used in the process should be made from clean water.

Processing

Adequate time and temperature control should be maintained and recorded during processing.

Washing and gutting

An adequate supply of chilled clean water should be available for washing. Gutted fish should be drained and well iced, or appropriately chilled and stored in clean containers, in specially designated and appropriate areas which maintain the fish and fishery products under time and temperature control.

Filleting/deboning

Fish and fishery products should be appropriately iced or chilled in clean containers, protected from dehydration, and stored in appropriate areas. The temperature of the fish and fishery products should be maintained at not more than 10°C during filleting and deboning, and below 5°C during storing.

Thawing

Thawing can be done under clean air or potable water. Temperature used during thawing should be controlled such that core temperature of product is maintained below 5°C.

Freezing

The fish and fishery products should be subjected to freezing process as quickly as possible. A time and temperature regime should be established and should take into consideration the freezing equipment and capacity as well as the nature of the fish and fishery products. The size, shape and temperature of fish and fishery products entering the freezing process should be as uniform as possible. Frozen products should be moved to the cold storage facility as quickly as possible. The core temperature of the frozen fish and fishery products should be monitored regularly for completeness of the freezing process, at a minimum of -18°C.

Glazing

Glazing is considered complete when the entire surface of the frozen fish product is covered with suitable protective coating of ice and should be free of exposed areas where dehydration can occur. Chilled potable water should be used for glazing.

Packing

Packing should be conducted in the shortest time possible, to ensure product is maintained within required temperatures. Packaging material should be clean, good, durable, and sufficient for its intended use and of food grade material.

Storing

Fish and fishery products should be stored under time and temperature control, where there is an adequate means of monitoring and recording its time and temperature. Chilled fish and fishery products should be maintained below 5°C. The core temperature of frozen fish and fishery products should be maintained at -18°C or below.

Transport and Distribution

A fish and fishery product business operator should ensure fish and fishery products are kept chilled or frozen, and exercise means of monitoring time and temperature of the products during transport and distribution.

Before and after loading, the cleanliness, suitability and sanitation of the transport vehicle should be verified.

The transport vehicle should be capable of maintaining adequate time and temperature control of fish and fishery products. The products should be packed with protection against contamination, exposure to extreme temperatures and the drying effects of the sun or wind. Arrangement of the packages within the transport vehicle should optimise time and temperature control.

Retailer and Wholesaler

During receiving, fish and fishery products should not be accepted if required temperatures are not met, and non-conformances are present in packaging or product. Delivery should be scheduled in a manner to ensure that fish and fishery products can be transferred properly and stored in the shortest possible time.

Adequate time and temperature control should be maintained in display shelves. It is recommended to retain records of temperature monitoring. Chilled fish and fishery products should be maintained at 5°C or below. Frozen products should be maintained at -18°C or below.

The display should be situated away from sources of heat and direct sunlight, and not overloaded. Wet market operators should ensure quick and proper unloading of fish and fishery products upon receipt. Equipment used in wet markets should be clean, and display cabinets should protect fish and fishery products from external factors such as sunlight and pests. Products should be maintained under ice to ensure temperature control, and stored in clean containers. Handlers should implement “first in first out” practice.

VI. SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

A fish and fishery product business operator should ensure that fish and fishery product handlers have skills and knowledge in food safety, quality and personal hygiene.

VII. ANNEXES

a. Chilling Methods

Icing techniques

Some examples of icing methods are as listed below.

- Ice slurry: One-part water to one-part ice
- Ice layering: Alternating layers of fish and crushed ice
- Chilled seawater: Seawater is chilled at 0°C, with the addition of ice. Ideal for vessels fitted with holding water
- Refrigerated seawater: Seawater chilled using mechanical cooling system. Used in vessels with holding water

It is essential to ensure that clean water is used to make ice used in icing. Fish should also be stored in shallow layers, and surrounded with finely divided ice, or ice slurry before processing. Avoid over stacking and over filling storage boxes or containers, to minimise risk of damaging and contaminating fish and fishery products.

In ice layering, storage boxes and containers should have drainage outlets to remove water from melted ice. Bottom and top of storage boxes or containers should be covered with sufficient layers of ice. Ice should be added when necessary.

Different forms of ice to use

- Flake ice: Allows for an easier, more uniform and gentle distribution of ice around fish and in storage container. It will cause very little or no mechanical damage to fish, and will chill fish more quickly than the other types of ice.
- Crushed ice: Large and sharp pieces of ice in this ice form may damage fish physically. However, finely crushed ice melt quickly on the fish surface and large pieces of ice that tend to last longer and compensate for thermal losses.
- Block ice: Requires less stowage volume for transport, and melts slowly. It also contains less water at the time it is crushed than flake ice
- Tube ice: Very durable, and has large surface area. More suitable for use in chilled Seawater systems if ice is wet, as it normally is under tropical conditions, as less water exists on its surface
- Slush ice: Fine ice crystal that allows flow-ability through pumping systems, allowing it to fill small spaces without the use of water.

Microbiological quality of ice

The microbiological quality of ice made from potable water is as shown below.

| Parameters | Limits |
|-------------------|---------------|
| <i>E. coli</i> | N.D. in 100ml |
| Coliform bacteria | N.D. in 100ml |

(Where N.D. denotes Not Detected)

Adapted from the World Health Organisation (2002)

b. Temperature Monitoring Methods

- Data Loggers: A range of temperature data-logger devices are available. Such devices are flexible in their operation, recording and some providing information direct to an alarm management system.
- Digital Thermometers: A flat blade or needle probe is sometimes the selected temperature measuring device
- Bi-metal Thermometers: A bi-metal dial thermometer may be suitable.

- Glass Thermometers: Mercury-in-glass or alcohol-in-glass thermometers pose a potential hazard due to possibility of cross- contamination.
- Infra-red (non-contact) Surface Temperature Thermometers: This can be a fast way to take product surface temperatures without having to open the case or damage product. Be aware that measuring the temperature of outer packaging is indicative only of the temperature of the product inside, and may be inaccurate due to abuse and calibration issues.
- Data devices from new technologies: Emerging technologies include active or passive RFID tags to monitor product temperature fluctuation history. Higher end, robust and reliable, wireless sensor network based, online monitoring solutions embracing product traceability, are available.
- Time Temperature Indicators (TTIs): TTIs provide ‘indication’ rather than quantitative measurement, which can be helpful, particularly at package monitoring level. Typically, these are based on heat sensitive film on packaging that highlight cumulative temperature abuse.

c. Checklist on Temperature Monitoring

Checklists should include details in accordance to national and international regulatory requirements, such as:

- Name and address of supplier
- Date and time of recording
- Name of product/equipment to be monitored
- Recorded temperature
- Name of monitoring personnel
- Signature/initials of verifying personnel

d. Different types of Freezing Techniques

- Continuous stream of cold air: Continuous streams of cold air is blown onto the fish and fishery products, freezing the products to the desired temperature. Such equipment includes Air Blast Freezers.
- Direct contact: Direct contact between the fish and fishery products, and a refrigerated surface, to allowing freezing through conduction. Such equipment includes Contact Freezers.
- Immersion or spraying: Fish and fishery products are sprayed with refrigeration liquids within freezing units to bring products to desired temperature.

e. Thawing Methods

- Air Thawing: Fish and fishery products are left at ambient or chilled temperatures until thawing has completed. This method is recommended for small and individually frozen products, as waterlogging can occur. Good drainage should also be ensured.
- Water Thawing: Products are placed in running water to aid controlled thawing. This means that the product can be thawed quickly, producing a better quality product. Factors that can be controlled include water temperature, flow rate and product separation.

VIII. REFERENCES

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WAY FORWARD FOR FISHERY SUBSIDIES

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Based on the FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018, the fraction of marine fish stocks fished within biologically sustainable levels has exhibited a decreasing trend, from 90.0 percent in 1974 to 66.9 percent in 2015. Nevertheless, throughout the past decades, governments around the world has provided billions, and by some accounts, tens of billions of dollars in subsidies to the fisheries sector. These include subsidies to capital and operating costs, which numerous analyses point to as having the potential to contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and thus to unsustainable fishing practices.

WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies

In order to ensure that subsidies would not contribute to overcapacity, overfishing and unsustainable practices, the World Trade Organization (WTO) launched in 2001 at the Doha Ministerial Conference the first of a series of negotiations on fisheries subsidies, with a mandate of “clarifying and improving” the existing WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies. Since then, the WTO’s fisheries subsidies negotiations have had sustainability concerns as their core focus. Also integral to the negotiations are development concerns of developing and least-developed WTO members, given the critical role of the fisheries sectors of many such members. Thus, the need to balance sustainability and development considerations characterized the negotiations since the outset.

During the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in 2005, the mandate of WTO was enhanced to include the call for prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. While the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies had been particularly active during the period 2005-2011, these entered a hiatus until late 2016, when a series of new proposals from the members began to be submitted with the aim of achieving binding outcomes at the Ministerial Conference in 2017.

In 2017, at the Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference (MC11), it was agreed that discussions on fisheries subsidies should be continued, and that in order to achieve the Target 6 of the SDG14 “by 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation,” the discussions on fishery subsidies should be concluded by 2019. The proponents, spanning diverse groups of members – developed, developing and least-developed, all focused, among other things, on prohibiting subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and most of the members also sought to prohibit subsidies in respect of the overfished stocks. Some also sought to address capacity- or effort-enhancing subsidies. However, the approaches to these proposed prohibitions varied too much for substantive outcomes to be agreed at MC11.

Nevertheless, the 2017 negotiating process leading up to Buenos Aires generated two documents that were recognized in the Ministerial Decision as the basis for future text-based negotiations. These are:

- [TN/RL/W/274/Rev.3](#) Working Documents on: Prohibited Subsidies Relating to IUU Fishing, Overfished Stocks, Overcapacity, Capacity-enhancing Subsidies, and Overfishing; Notifications and Transparency; and Special and Differential Treatment
- [RD/TN/RL/29/Rev.3](#) Unofficial Room Document: Negotiating Group on Rules – Fisheries Subsidies Non-Paper

In November 2018, the WTO Negotiation Group on Rules came up with [TN/RL/W/274/Rev.6](#): Working Document on Fisheries Subsidies, which represents a unified version of the Negotiating Group’s working documents on fisheries subsidies produced to date. The purpose of this document is to facilitate further work of the Group.

SEAFDEC initiatives in relation to fisheries subsidies

SEAFDEC also provides the platform for the Southeast Asian countries to discuss and come up with harmonized approaches toward the issue on fisheries subsidies. For example, the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries-related Issues on 20-22 June 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, included discussions on fisheries subsidies.

During the 2018 RTC, it was agreed that the scope of fisheries subsidy should focus on the types of fishing gear and not by species, and that fisheries subsidies should not be considered as standalone issue, as it has close linkage with other initiatives *e.g.* sustainability of the fish stocks. In order that the discussions would also address the issues that concern the region, it was agreed that the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) should consider the possibility of sending delegates that comprise especially their national fisheries officers, to attend in different clusters of fishery subsidies negotiations. Meanwhile, SEAFDEC should also facilitate the identification of the focal point of each AMS as well as the development of the ASEAN common position on fishery subsidies for adoption by the ASEAN Minister on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) to be reflected at the WTO fora upon consideration by the SEAFDEC Council.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

To consider and provide directive guidance on the way forward for fisheries subsidies.

STATEMENT

By Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry

*Interim Executive Director,
Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)*

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatu

Selamat pagi, Magandang Umaga, Bom Dia and very good morning to everyone.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for inviting me on behalf of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and Coral Triangle Initiative six Member Countries to this valuable meeting. Our special thanks goes to the Government of Indonesia to host this meeting and provide its excellent hospitality.

Back in April 2015, the 47th SEAFDEC Council Meeting was the moment of SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF to start the collaboration. Our spatial overlap has led both parties to sign a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding to conserve the marine biodiversity in South East Asia and Coral Triangle Area.

To this day, it has been four years since the signing of Memorandum of Understanding. The CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC have had several activities on the implementation of Ecosystem Approach on Fisheries Management. Our strategic collaboration on promoting the Ecosystem Approach on Fisheries Management, and conservation and management of fishery resources in the Coral Triangle area needs to continue in to stringer strategic direction. I would like specifically to recall our collaboration in conducting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) in 2013. The RS CTI CFF would like to put the LRFFT as one of our strategic collaboration. We need to address this issue for ensuring our coral and fisheries can still serve as source of nutrient and food security.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As a continuation of the EAFM implementation and promotion, the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat working with the Threatened Species Working Group, conducted the Regional Training Workshop on Identification of Sharks and Rays. Supported by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and our new Development Partner, Wildlife Conservation Society, we have conducted the three-day Training Workshop which was aimed to raise the awareness of the importance of Sharks and Rays and towards their conservation and sustainable management in the Coral Triangle.

Number of sharks and rays species are now recognised as some of the most threatened species in the world. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, one of quarter of the species is struggling with extinction due to overfishing. This will be an undesirable situation if this practice still occurs in our ocean.

To prevent the overfishing of Sharks and Rays in the Coral Triangle area, we would like to collaborates with SEAFDEC to promote and ensure the sustainability of shars and rays fisheries in South East Asia and Coral Triangle. We needs to learn the diverse approaches and methodologies being used by SEAFDEC on sustainable fisheries. I am hoping that this collaboration will be able to conserve the sharks and rays species in the Coral Triangle.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Moving forward with the sustainably fisheries in the Coral Triangle Area, through our CTI-CFF EAFM Technical Working Group, the CTI-CFF collaborates with the USAID Oceans on the development of a *Sub-Regional Plan for Managing Fisheries in the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape*. Furthermore, this Regional

Plan was adopted during the SOM-14 and now is going to be implemented by the EAFM Technical Working group.

Furthermore, the USAID Oceans is also supporting the CTI-CFF-SOACAP IFM Workshop (Also called SOACAP Activity 1.3 Workshop) that is scheduled to be conducted in Dili, Timor Leste in June 2019. USAID Oceans has kindly offered to hold a 1-day pre-Workshop for CT6 Pacific Member States and 1.5 days post-Workshop for all CT6 Member States on eCDT. These workshops and training will discuss various agenda including the implementation of Regional Plan for Managing Fisheries in the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

For the benefit of all who are present here, the CTI-CFF is currently at the start of developing/renewing its Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0). The first CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) is approaching the end of term in 2020. Based on preliminary discussions and general consensus, the priority areas for CTI-CFF would probably be in managing priority seascapes and the full application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) in the CT region. With a more focused approach, the CTI-CFF would require much active participation, experts' inputs and global presence to influence national policies and gain significant resources for implementation without duplicating existing work, but rather, focus on its core competencies and comparative advantage and complement other work by aligning more strategically with other organizations such as SEAFDEC.

To that end, on behalf of CTI-CFF, I thank you once again for the opportunity to participate and collaborate with SEAFDEC and its activities. Hopefully, the cooperation between SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF will continue to support the forthcoming challenging issues of the oceans governance and marine biodiversity.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you a fruitful and successful Meeting. Terima kasih, Maraming Salamat, Obrigado, and Thank you very much. Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

STATEMENT

By Mr. Simon Nicol

*Regional Senior Fishery Officer for Asia and the Pacific,
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations*

Chairman of SEAFDEC Council,
Secretary General and Chief of the Training Department, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*,
Distinguished SEAFDEC Council members,
SEAFDEC colleagues
Delegates from regional organizations and arrangements,

On behalf of *Kundhavi Kadiresan*, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO would like to thank SEAFDEC for inviting FAO to this meetings and providing the opportunity to give a statement regarding areas of cooperation and coordination between FAO, SEAFDEC and member countries.

The Blue Sectors of Fisheries and Aquaculture make a significant contribution to food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of millions of people. Current estimates suggest nearly one billion people globally are dependent on fisheries value chains from harvesting to distribution and consumption. These sectors are even more important in the Asia Pacific Region which is home to around 87 percent of those people with livelihoods that depend on them.

Our marine and coastal ecosystems in the region require careful management. The loss and degradation of key habitats of coastal and aquatic species caused by pollution and coastal development, the impacts of climate change, and other human activities threaten the long-term sustainability of our fisheries and the communities, livelihoods and industries that are dependent upon them.

FAO appreciates the contribution made by SEAFDEC to strengthening regional cooperation and the significant work it has carried out in the last year to improve our management of the regions fisheries and the science underpinning such management.

FAO congratulates SEAFDEC on its support to council members in combating IUU fishing in the region. FAO is heartened to hear of the progress now being made by SEAFDEC and members on the regional record of fishing vessels. Port state measures link to both vessel registries and effective catch documentation schemes, which are both important areas for regional collaborative effort in capacity building and technical support. Moreover, FAO appreciates the excellent work of SEAFDEC to promote responsible fisheries, gender equity and youth opportunities throughout its work program.

FAO is pleased to see synergies with many other parts of the SEAFDEC programme. FAO envisages and hopes for very close collaboration on a number of key areas, namely:

Combatting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing represents a major challenge for the fisheries sector in the region. FAO looks forward to further collaboration with SEAFDEC and member countries in this respect.

FAO welcomes the interest shown by SEAFDEC member countries to support implementation of a regional approach to the “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication”. FAO wishes to continue its collaboration with SEAFDEC and programme committee members on promoting and implementing these guidelines.

FAO looks forward to further strong collaboration on a range of forthcoming GEF projects to be implemented (and more to be developed) during the coming years including:

- BOBLME – 2 (Strategic Action Plan Implementation), Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem Project (Governments of Timor Leste and Indonesia)
- GoTFish (Gulf of Thailand) Inland fisheries capacity development in the Lower Mekong Basin.

The FAO Blue Growth initiative remains an important element on the sustainable development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the region to address the projected gap in supply in the coming years.

FAO is committed to supporting SEAFDEC and its members countries in their plans to address the SDG's (and in particular SDG 14).

FAO appreciates the efforts of SEAFDEC, partners and member countries with capacity development in relation to fisheries management and EAFM training courses. SEAFDEC's cooperation in the regional development of capacity for EAFM is to be congratulated and the roll out of country specific training is an excellent development.

FAO welcomes the contribution of SEAFDEC, ILO partners and member countries with regard to addressing issues in regard to labour, decent work, safe working conditions and safety at sea in the fisheries sector. FAO looks forward to collaborating further in this regard.

FAO reaffirms its commitment to working with and building collaboration with SEAFDEC in the coming years.

Lastly, I would like to thank our hosts the Government of Indonesia for their excellent arrangements and warm hospitality for this 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

Thank you.

STATEMENT

By Dr. Cherdasak Virapat

*Director General,
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)*

Chairperson,
Secretary General of SEAFDEC,
Distinguished Delegates at the 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council,
Delegates from regional and International Organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

On behalf of NACA, I would like to express my sincere thanks to SEAFDEC for the invitation to participate at this 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. Due to my prior commitments, I apologize for not being able to attend the meeting at this time. In addition, my term of office at NACA will be completed in April 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to SEAFDEC for its commitment to strong cooperation and partnership and for the steadfast support it has extended to NACA, especially during the last five years.

I would like to reiterate areas of focus by NACA and common interests which have been promoted and implemented in the Asia-Pacific region. This is to enhance future collaboration and cooperation between NACA and SEAFDEC.

NACA's development objectives are to promote rural development through sustainable aquaculture and aquatic resources management. NACA seeks to improve the livelihoods of rural people, reduce poverty and increase food security. The ultimate beneficiaries are farmers and rural communities. NACA implements its mission through a network of 19 member governments and affiliated regional and national centres in the Asia-Pacific region, in partnership with international donors and development agencies. NACA's work is based on five thematic programmes, namely aquatic animal health; sustainable farming systems; genetics and biodiversity; food safety, quality and certification; and response to climate change. There are also three cross-cutting programmes on education & training; gender; and information and communications.

SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department is the Lead Center of NACA in the Philippines, and in May 2016, the MoU between NACA and SEAFDEC was signed for collaboration on aquaculture development. SEAFDEC/AQD has been designated as a NACA Collaborating Centre. Some key activities that NACA collaborated and/or participated with SEAFDEC and some of the member countries of SEAFDEC which addressed important issues affecting aquaculture industry in the region in 2018 include:

- AIT in collaboration with DOF-Thailand, NACA and SEAFDEC organized the 7th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, 18-20 October 2018 and the Asian Aquaculture 2018, 3-6 December 2018 at AIT, Thailand;
- NACA and SEAFDEC in collaboration with International Ocean Institute Thailand Training Centre organized the 3rd IOI Training Course in Regional Ocean Governance Framework: Implementation of UNCLOS and Its Related Instruments for the Southeast Asian Seas and the Indian Ocean held at the Navy Pirom Hotel in Hua Hin, Thailand during 1st -27th July 2018. NACA and SEAFDEC presented their related activities and participated in the roundtable discussion on sustainable fisheries, food security and food safety. About 19 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand and a few countries of NACA attended the training course;

- NACA collaborated with SEAFDEC AQD, DOF Thailand and ASEAN Network on Aquatic Animal Health Centres (ANAAHC) to develop a project proposal entitled “ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia”. This is to examine the status of aquatic animal emergency preparedness and response systems currently being practiced in the region and to identify gaps and other initiatives for regional cooperation. The proposal was approved with the support from the Government of Japan through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia was organized on 20-22 August 2018 at Centara Grand Central Ladprao in Bangkok, Thailand;
- NACA organized the Regional Consultation and Related Study on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Risk to aquaculture in Asia and Preliminary Consultation on Monitoring of AMR in Bacterial Pathogens in aquaculture, 4-7 September 2018, Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand;
- The Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) Report continuously published by NACA in collaboration with OIE and FAO. This reporting system has been a useful mechanism for recognizing emerging and important aquatic animal disease in the region, assisting governments to formulate trade related quarantine and biosecurity policy as well as excellent regional networking in support of aquatic animal disease surveillance;
- NACA organized the 17th Meeting of Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (AGM17), 12-14 November 2018 at Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao in Bangkok, Thailand;
- NACA organized the 9th Regional Training Course on Marine Finfish Seed Production and Grow-out, 19-30 November 2018 at Krabi Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Centre, Thailand.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to inform you that as requested by the Member States at the COFI Sub-Committee of Aquaculture (SCA), and supported by the 33rd Committee of Fisheries (COFI) during the meeting in Rome, Italy on 9-12 July 2018, FAO is collaborating with NACA to organize the Global Aquaculture Millennium +20 Conference to be held in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China in September 2020. The Global Aquaculture Millennium +20 Conference is going to 1) review the present status and trends in aquaculture development; 2) evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration and Strategy on Aquaculture Development Beyond 2000 and the Phuket Consensus 2010; 3) address emerging issues in aquaculture development; 4) assess opportunities and challenges for future aquaculture development; and 5) build consensus on advancing aquaculture as a global, sustainable and competitive food production sector.

Lastly, with fruitful collaborations of NACA with SEAFDEC and other partner organizations in the region and in the world, I hope that NACA and SEAFDEC will continue to explore opportunities and implement projects to strengthen our collaboration and coordination in important aquaculture development activities in the region and beyond.

STATEMENT

By Dr. R. Craig Kirkpatrick

*Regional Wildlife Conservation Advisor,
U.S. Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA)*

Distinguished Members of the SEAFDEC Council,
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Representatives and Collaborating Partners,

Good afternoon. I would like to extend our gratitude to SEAFDEC for the opportunity to participate in this 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. We thank each of the SEAFDEC member countries, the Japanese Trust Fund, and the Government of Sweden. We also would like to extend our thanks to the Government of Indonesia for its hospitality and leadership. I understand that this year, the U.S. and Indonesia are celebrating the 70th anniversary of relations. We're thrilled that Indonesia can host this important meeting, as being here during the 70th anniversary celebrations gives us another chance to showcase our shared commitment to prosperity and partnership, particularly in the marine sector.

The U.S. Government, through the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, has many reasons to be thankful to SEAFDEC, its member countries, and the many esteemed international partners represented here today. We are grateful to be a part of this supportive, effective partnership working for sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia. USAID is deeply committed to continuing to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, promote sustainable fisheries management and conserve marine biodiversity in this region together.

Through the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership, USAID and SEAFDEC have been working together since 2015. Throughout the region, USAID has developed a portfolio of programs that are working to build the resiliency of Southeast Asia's fisheries and improve the livelihoods of the millions of individuals that support them. These initiatives include the USAID Counter Trafficking in Persons program, the USAID Sustainable Ecosystems Advanced program in Indonesia and most recently, the USAID Fish Right Program in the Philippines. The U.S. Government looks forward to continuing to support the region through these programs and those that will follow. The recent U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy reiterates our commitment to the region, and USAID looks forward to continued, fruitful partnerships in the years ahead.

With USAID Oceans now in its fourth of five years, it is a timely juncture to look back on the progress that has been made to date, and just in the last year. Under USAID Oceans' core areas, traceability, fisheries management; human welfare; and increased public-private sector engagement, we have seen significant progress. Since the launch of USAID Oceans in 2015, USAID has seen a shift in regional interests for electronic catch documentation and traceability, sustainable fisheries management and human welfare. Whereas just a few years ago we worked to increase interest in these areas, we now see regional demand and increasing discourse across each of these topics of which SEAFDEC has played an essential role.

To date, the USAID Oceans and SEAFDEC partnership has worked to implement electronic traceability in its Indonesia and Philippines learning sites. These systems have now tracked over 25 metric tons of seafood bound for international markets. Across the network of SEAFDEC Member Countries, 2018 also marked greater demand for electronic traceability support, particularly in regard to the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme. In 2019, for example, the partnership has been working closely with the governments of Thailand and Viet Nam to integrate the partnership's technology and learnings in their respective local fisheries. We commend SEAFDEC's continued development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme. USAID, through USAID Oceans, is fully committed to support the system and its adoption throughout the region.

We also commend SEAFDEC for their efforts to develop a Sub-Regional Sulu-Sulawesi Scape Sustainable Fisheries Management and their work to apply this sub-regional planning approach to other priority areas in the region. In 2018, the partnership and its member countries worked together closely to develop, present and have the first known sub-regional fisheries management plan endorsed for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. With the plan, the partnership has now protected over 40 million hectares of biologically significant areas under Sustainable Fisheries Management Plans. Without SEAFDEC, this accomplishment would not have been possible. It employs a multi-national approach that is required for effective plans that can be scaled down to meet national and local needs and also scaled up to meet regional and international priorities and has been developed through a multi-national, multi-stakeholder process. We thank SEAFDEC and its member countries for their contributions and support to this plan, which we hope will provide a meaningful example for future planning in the Andaman and South China seas.

USAID believes that the partnerships SEAFDEC has formed throughout the region are a driving factor behind the progress that has been made across the region to combat IUU and enhance the sustainability of Southeast Asia's fisheries. USAID is grateful to be part of this partnership, and we will continue to facilitate engagement of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Department of State, NOAA, and other U.S. government counterparts towards this goal. We will continue to work with our bilateral missions to leverage efforts and resources to maximize impact, and we will continue to engage with regional partners like the CTI-CFF, RFMOs, FAO and others to synergize efforts. USAID will also continue to strengthen our relationship with SEAFDEC to promote its leadership and advance the priorities of its member countries towards national and regional priorities.

Please accept our congratulations on another successful Council Meeting. We look forward to our continued collaboration in the coming year.

CITES-RELATED ISSUES

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With 183 Parties, Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) aims specifically to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. However, the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices is one of the crucial issues that could impact not only on the management of fisheries but also on the economies of the countries in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC in response to the request made at the 32nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting in 2000, a regional program has been implemented with the support from the Japanese Trust Fund entitled “*Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fish Trade Related Issues*” implementing under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Mechanism. The major outputs from this program is to raise awareness on the proposed listing of the CEAS into the CITES Appendices, as well as to formulate a regional common/coordinated position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries (MCs) to reflect situation of the Southeast Asian fisheries. Such common/coordinated position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC MCs has been addressed by SEAFDEC and its MCs at the international fora.

In Geneva in 2017, SEAFDEC participated “*FAO, RFMOs and CITES Planning Meeting*” in March to discuss future cooperation on implementation of CITES for marine species, and the “*30th Meeting of the Animal Committee*” (AC30) in July. In both meetings, SEAFDEC and participants shared experience and lessons learnt on the CEAS based on the work program and highlighted the priorities for the coming years, issues on management of sharks and rays through improvement of data collection and statistics, analysis and exchange of information, ways to improve communication. At the AC30, SEAFDEC was a member of working group on shark, and intersessional working group on eels. Moreover, SEAFDEC submitted “*Status and Resources Management of Tropical Eels in Southeast Asia*” to the AC30 where it is available now at the CITES website. The document will be used as a basis for the Animal Committee to report to the meeting of the CITES CoP18 in May 2019.

In October 2018, SEAFDEC organized the “*Technical Workshop on Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia*” where the “*Policy Guidelines for Regional Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia*” was formulated. In November 2018, the Guidelines was then endorsed by the Councils as *ad referendum*. After that, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD and FAO jointly organized “*Workshop on Regional Awareness Raising in Asia on Prospective Species Proposals to CITES CoP18 and Preparation of Fisheries Related Information to Support Review of Species Proposals Against CITES Listing Criteria*”. Discussion on regional database for Catadromous eel, way forward to scientifically collect eel fishery statistics, development of appropriate stock assessment method for the tropical anguillid eels, and development of a regional plan for sustainable utilization of the tropical anguillid eels were made.

To follow-up and update with FAO, SEAFDEC has communicated with the FAO Officer who are in-charge on CITES issues. Recently, SEAFDEC was informed that FAO organized the 6th *FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species* in FAO headquarters from 21 to 25 January 2019. Conclusions and views from the FAO expert panel on the four (4) proposals are shown in **Appendix 1**. Regarding the Prop. 42 (mako sharks) and Prop. 45 (sea cucumbers), the expert concluded that the available data do not provide evidence that the species meets the CITES Appendix II listing criteria. Moreover, the FAO expert also concluded that there was insufficient evidence to make a decision in relation to CITES criteria for the Prop. 43 (guitarfish) and Prop. 44 (wedgefish).

Recently, SEAFDEC organized the consultation on *ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices* in late January 2019. Discussion on the five (5) proposals for amending the CEAS into the CITES Appendix II was discussed and the positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as the set of recommendations on the issues related to conservation and utilization of the CEAS was developed (**Appendix 2**). It was concluded that there is one (1) proposal that all MCs are having the same position to

oppose the proposal for listing the mako sharks. Most of the MCs are not supporting the other proposals. This would be reflected at the sequence of meeting related to regional and international CITES related meetings (*e.g.* ASEAN Working Group on CITES Meeting in April 2019) as well as the CITES-CoP18 in May 2019.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

Council is requested to take note of the progress of international and regional initiatives on CITES issues including the common positions of the SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposals of listing aquatic species into the CITES Appendices. The Council is also requested to provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on the implementation of regional/national initiatives related to CITES listed commercially aquatic species.

Abstract of the Report of the 6th FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species

ABSTRACT

The Sixth FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species was held at FAO headquarters from 21 to 25 January 2019. The Expert Panel was convened in response to the agreement by the Twenty-Fifth session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) on the terms of reference for an expert advisory panel for assessment of proposals to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and following endorsement from the Twenty-Sixth session of COFI to convene the Expert Panel for relevant proposals to future CITES Conference of the Parties.

The objectives of the Expert Panel were to:

- i. assess each proposal from a scientific perspective in accordance with the CITES biological listing criteria (Resolution Conf. 9.24 [Rev. CoP17]);
- ii. comment, as appropriate, on technical aspects of the proposal in relation to biology, ecology, trade and management issues, as well as, to the extent possible, the likely effectiveness for conservation.

The Expert Panel considered the following four proposals submitted to the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to CITES:

- CoP18 Prop. 42. Proposal to include the mako shark, *Isurus oxyrinchus* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) and *Isurus paucus* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b). The Expert Panel assessment of Proposal 42 concluded that the available data do not provide evidence that the species meets the CITES Appendix II listing criteria.
- CoP18 Prop. 43. Proposal to include blackchin guitarfish *Glaucostegus cemiculus* and the sharpnose guitarfish, *Glaucostegus granulatus* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) and inclusion of all other giant guitarfish, *Glaucostegus spp.* in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b). The Expert Panel assessment of Proposal 43 concluded that there was insufficient evidence to make a decision in relation to CITES criteria, recommending that CITES Parties take note of the one example of extirpation, the widespread lack of management and the very high value of guitarfish fins in international trade.
- CoP18 Prop. 44. Proposal to include white-spotted wedgefish, *Rhynchobatus australiae* and *Rhynchobatus djiddensis* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a). If listed, this would include *Rhynchobatus cooki*, *Rhynchobatus immaculatus*, *Rhynchobatus laevis*, *Rhynchobatus luebberti*, *Rhynchobatus palpebratus*, *Rhynchobatus springeri*, *Rhynchobatus mauritaniensis*, *Rhina ancylostoma*, and all other putative species of the Rhinidae (wedgefish) family in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b). The Expert Panel assessment of Proposal 44 concluded that there was insufficient evidence to make a decision in relation to CITES criteria, recommending that CITES Parties take note of the widespread lack of management and the very high value of wedgefish fins in international trade.
- CoP18 Prop. 45. Proposal to include the subgenus *Holothuria (Microthele)*: *Holothuria fuscogilva*, *Holothuria nobilis* and *Holothuria whitmaei* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a). The Expert Panel assessment of Proposal 45 concluded that the available data for *Holothuria fuscogilva* does not meet the CITES Appendix II listing criteria, that there was insufficient evidence to make a determination for *Holothuria nobilis*, but that *Holothuria whitmaei* does meet the CITES Appendix II listing criteria.

The report includes an assessment of each of the four proposals in-line with the objectives outlined above, highlighting the Expert Panel's determination of whether information on the species in question meet the CITES Appendix criteria, and noting biology, ecology, trade and management issues, as well as, to the extent possible, the likely effectiveness of a listing for conservation.

**Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
On the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into
the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP18**

*(Adopted by the “Regional Consultation for Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC
Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the
CITES Appendices,” 30-31 January 2019, Bangkok, Thailand)*

I. INTRODUCTION

Four proposals have been submitted by CITES Parties for listing of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices for consideration during the 18th Session of the Conference of the Parties of CITES (CITES-CoP18), namely:

- A. Inclusion of the blackchin guitarfish (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*), and the sharpnose guitarfish (*Glaucostegus granulatus*) and all of other giant guitarfishes, *Glaucostegus* spp. in Appendix II;
- B. Inclusion of the following three species belonging to the subgenus *Holothuria* (*Microthele*): *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva*, *Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis* and *Holothuria (Microthele) whitmaei*, in Appendix II;
- C. Inclusion of the short-fin Mako shark, *Isurus oxyrinchus* and long-fin Mako shark *Isurus paucus* in Appendix II; and
- D. Inclusion of the two species commonly referred to as the white-spotted wedgefish, *Rhynchobatus australiae* and *Rhynchobatus djiddensis*, in Appendix II; and inclusion of all other species in the Family Rhinidae (wedgefish): *Rhynchobatus cooki*, *Rhynchobatus immaculatus*, *Rhynchobatus laevis*, *Rhynchobatus luebberti*, *Rhynchobatus palpebratus*, *Rhynchobatus springeri*, *Rhynchorhina mauritaniensis*, *Rhina ancylostoma*, and any other putative species of the Family Rhinidae in Appendix II.

In order to facilitate the discussion of these proposals by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, SEAFDEC with support from the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund convened the “Regional Consultation for Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices” on 30-31 January 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. Attended by fisheries experts and National Coordinators from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as Officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely TD, AQD, MFRDMD and IFRDMD, and with Resource Person from FAO Rome, the Regional Consultation came up with technical recommendations and the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Countries’ Positions on the proposals for the possible inclusion of the aforesaid CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP18.

II. Recommendations, Countries' Views and Positions on the Proposals

| Proposal | Recommendations | Countries' view | Positions of countries | | |
|----------|---|---|------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | | | Support | Not support | Position held in abeyance |
| A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As <i>Glaucostegus cemiculus</i> and <i>G. granulatus</i> are not reported in the Southeast Asian region, while other species of the Genus <i>Glaucostegus</i> are caught as “by-catch,” listing of the species into the Appendix II of CITES might not reduce the catch of these species. Promotion of better management schemes, e.g. by-catch reduction, use of selective fishing gears, would therefore be more appropriate approaches for the conservation of the species. | <p>Brunei: There is no record of catch of this species at species level. They are mixed with the wedgfish, annual landing of about 500 kg. Small-scale fishing gear including gillnet are catching this group as by-catch, consuming only at local.</p> <p>Cambodia: There is no record of catch of this species in Cambodia, while some published data is insufficient to support the listing of the species into the Appendix II</p> <p>Indonesia: Although the two species are not commonly found in the region, some other species of the Genus <i>Glaucostegus</i> are found, so problems on products identification and traceability could be enormous</p> <p>Japan: There is insufficient data to support the listing of the species into Appendix II, also considering that this is by-catch species, regulating trade would not help in conserving the species</p> <p>Lao PDR: As a landlocked country, Lao PDR will follow the position of majority of the ASEAN countries</p> <p>Malaysia: As there is inadequate data to support the listing of the species into the Appendix II, and Malaysia is not range State of these species, Malaysia recommends that the species (<i>Glaucostegus cemiculus</i> and <i>G. granulatus</i>) could instead be listed in Appendix III</p> <p>Myanmar: The proposed species are found only in few numbers (as by-catch) in Myanmar waters</p> | Philippines | Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Thailand | Singapore* Viet Nam* |

| Proposal | Recommendations | Countries' view | Positions of countries | | |
|----------|---|---|------------------------|---|--|
| | | | Support | Not support | Position held in abeyance |
| | | <p>Philippines: The Philippine position on the proposed listing is consistent with the provisions in the Philippine national law for aquatic species that are classified as threatened s under the IUCN Red List</p> <p>Thailand: Only few numbers of the species are caught in Thai waters, and there would be problems on the identification of these species</p> <p>Viet Nam: There is not enough scientific evidence to support the listing of the species in CITES Appendices, and if there is no ASEAN common position, the position of Viet Nam will be subject to the decision of the CITES authorities in Viet Nam</p> | | | |
| B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although fisheries management measures for sea cucumbers are being promoted in some countries in the region, such effort should be strengthened. • The potentials for hatchery production of teatfish should be explored to support prospects for aquaculture and stock enhancement. | <p>Brunei: concerning difficulties in identifying the species under dry condition. In addition, Brunei does no longer export any sea cucumbers to Hong Kong as they did before.</p> <p>Cambodia: Although there is no catch data on the three species (<i>i.e.</i> not species specific), Cambodia is more concerned about the over-exploited status of other sea cucumber populations in Cambodia, and so currently, Cambodia has the position to “support” the proposal however the country’s Fisheries Office would consult with the CITES Scientific Authority for Aquatic Resources in Cambodia to finalize and confirm such position</p> <p>Indonesia: There is no available species specific data record for these species proposed, while sea cucumber has been recorded as a single commodity (as <i>trepang</i>) in Indonesia, listing the species in the CITES Appendices would therefore require big effort in recording and trade monitoring, especially that the fisheries statistical data does not classify it into species, not even genus specific</p> | Philippines | Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Thailand | Cambodia** Japan** Singapore* Viet Nam* |

| Proposal | Recommendations | Countries' view | Positions of countries | | |
|----------|-----------------|---|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Support | Not support | Position held in abeyance |
| | | <p>Japan: There is not enough scientific evidence to counter the proposal, but implementation should also be considered</p> <p>Lao PDR: As a landlocked country, Lao PDR will follow the position of majority of the ASEAN countries</p> <p>Malaysia: There is no available species specific data recorded for these species proposed, while sea cucumber trade categorized these species under a single commodity (<i>gamat</i> in Malay; sea cucumber in English) in Malaysia, so that up listing these species in CITES requires a big challenge for traceability</p> <p>Myanmar: There is no catch data in the country on the three proposed species</p> <p>Philippines: The Philippine position on the proposed listing is consistent with the provisions of the Philippine national law for aquatic species that are already classified as threatened in the IUCN Red List.</p> <p>Furthermore, prior to CITES CoP16, the Philippines had planned to submit a proposal for the Appendix III listing of selected high value species that includes <i>Holothuria scabra</i> and the two teatfish species: <i>H. fuscogilva</i> and <i>H. whitmae</i>, using as scientific evidence the results of the 2004-2008 national stock assessment and trade surveys conducted by the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and local academic institutions</p> | | | |

| Proposal | Recommendations | Countries' view | Positions of countries | | |
|----------|---|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | | | Support | Not support | Position held in abeyance |
| | | <p>Thailand: Although <i>H. nobilis</i> is a species rarely found in Thailand, but Thailand has compiled some import data of other sea cucumber species, <i>i.e.</i> for <i>H. fuscogilva</i>, and the information provided by the proponent (EU) is inconsistent with the available data of Thailand, so that more studies on the species would be necessary, while listing of this species in CITES Appendices would be a big challenge for traceability</p> <p>Viet Nam: Most of sea cucumber species are under strict management in the country's new Fisheries Law (in endangered and rare list), in which it is forbidden to catch teatfish, although Viet Nam supports for the fisheries management of sea cucumbers</p> | | | |
| C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the proposed species are not targeted in the Southeast Asian region but is caught as "by-catch," listing of the species into the CITES Appendix II would not reduce the catch of these species. Promotion of better management schemes should therefore be the more appropriate measures for the conservation of the species. Listing of the species should be considered taking into account the situation that the stock status does not meet CITES listing criteria and that implementation challenges are expected. | <p>Brunei: no record of catching these species in Brunei waters. There is insufficient scientific information in order to support the proposal</p> <p>Cambodia: Although the species is not native to Cambodia, the species does not meet the criteria for listing under Appendix II</p> <p>Indonesia: The species is mainly caught as by-catch from longline, while Indonesia has already developed the NPOA (1st period: 2010-2015; 2nd period: 2016-2020) for sharks, so this species can be addressed through this management plan and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) management measures</p> <p>Japan: The species does not meet the criteria for listing under Appendix II, and also, implementation issues are also expected</p> | | Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines*** Thailand | |

| Proposal | Recommendations | Countries' view | Positions of countries | | |
|----------|-----------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Support | Not support | Position held in abeyance |
| | | <p>Lao PDR: As a landlocked country, Lao PDR will follow the position of majority of the ASEAN countries</p> <p>Malaysia: Although the species does not meet the criteria for listing the species under Appendix II, Malaysia recommends that the range States of these species in areas with depleted stocks should consider proposing the species for listing under Appendix III</p> <p>Myanmar: The species are mainly caught as by-catch in the country and only in small quantities</p> <p>Philippines: While the proposed listing of both species would benefit both the animals and stakeholders, more data is needed to support its listing in any of the CITES Appendices. Although the WCPFC have Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) for sharks in general and for both species in particular, data on population decline, and other listing criteria are inadequate. Locally, both species needs further population assessments by the expert members of the Philippine Aquatic Red List Committee (PARLC). Outcomes of assessments would be inputs into the updating of the National Red List of Threatened Aquatic Species the country; as a necessary element for doing Non-Detrimental Finding (NDF) for restrictions on international trade and other measures such as annual quotas, size limits, seasonal fishing closures, and the like.</p> <p>Thailand: The species is oceanic and not native to Thailand, so that after Thailand ceased the oversea operations of Thai fishing vessels since 2016, only few accidental catch had been reported although there could still be crucial issues on species</p> | | Singapore* Viet Nam* | |

| Proposal | Recommendations | Countries' view | Positions of countries | | |
|----------|---|--|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | Support | Not support | Position held in abeyance |
| | | <p>identification</p> <p>Viet Nam: There is insufficient data to support the listing of these species under the CITES Appendix II</p> | | | |
| D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the proposed species are not targeted in the Southeast Asian region but caught as “by-catch,” listing of the species into the CITES Appendix II might not reduce the catch of these species. Promotion of better management schemes for reduction of by-catch should therefore be the more appropriate measures for the conservation of the species. | <p>Brunei: There is no record of catch of this species at species level. They are mixed with the guitarfish, annual landing of about 500 kg. Small-scale fishing gear including gillnet are catching this group as by-catch, consuming only at local.</p> <p>Cambodia: There is insufficient data to support the listing of the species into the CITES Appendix II</p> <p>Indonesia: Wedgefishes are still abundant and contribute to 16% of Indonesia’s production of rays, although Indonesia needs to put more efforts on species identification to distinguish wedgefishes from other species under the same genus</p> <p>Japan: There is no scientific evidence on the stock that meet the criteria for listing of the proposed species into CITES Appendix II, and also considering that it is by-catch species, regulating trade would not help in conserving the species</p> <p>Lao PDR: As a landlocked country, Lao PDR will follow the position of majority of the ASEAN countries</p> <p>Malaysia: Listing of the species into CITES Appendix II would create difficulties in distinguishing the proposed species from the other species of the same genus, <i>e.g.</i> guitarfish, by officers at entry and exit points of the country, so Malaysia recommends that the range State of the species <i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i> could propose that the species be listed under the Appendix III while <i>R.</i></p> | Philippines | Brunei Darussalam ¹ Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Thailand | Singapore* Viet Nam* |

| Proposal | Recommendations | Countries' view | Positions of countries | | |
|----------|-----------------|--|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Support | Not support | Position held in abeyance |
| | | <p><i>australiae</i> are still abundant in the country</p> <p>Myanmar: The species is mainly caught as by-catch and only in small quantity</p> <p>Philippines: The Philippine position to support the proposal and its acceptance to be one of the proponents stemmed from the fact that Philippines was the proponent of the up listing of wedgefishes to Appendix I that was adopted by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) CoP12 hosted by the Philippines in 2017.</p> <p>The Philippines is the only ASEAN Member State that is Party to the CMS</p> <p>Thailand: Only small amount of the proposed species has been caught in Thai waters, so there is still insufficient data for listing of the species into the CITES Appendix, and if the species is listed, the problem on identification of the species could arise</p> <p>Viet Nam: From the 2-year data collection of SEAFDEC, the composition of the species in the total catch is very low</p> | | | |

Remarks:

*Country's position to follow the ASEAN Common Position

**Country's position would be communicated with the SEAFDEC Secretariat upon Consultation with concerned national authorities

***The result from the discussion during the visit of SEAFDEC Secretariat staff to BFAR – the Philippines on 11 Feb. 2019, and e-mail communication with the representative from BFAR after the Regional Consultation.

¹Positions by Brunei Darussalam and Singapore were confirmed by consultation during the visit of SEAFDEC staff on 12, 13 February respectively.

REVISION OF THE RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION AFTER 2020

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 (RES&POA-2020) were prepared by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in collaboration with ASEAN and SEAFDEC, and were adopted by the Countries during the Ministerial and Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” held during 13-17 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The RES&POA-2020 are envisaged to serve as policy framework and priority actions to support sustainable development of fisheries and enhancing the contributions from fisheries to food security and better livelihood of people in the region towards the coming decade.

On the occasion of the 5-year implementation of RES&POA-2020 in 2015, SEAFDEC Secretariat proposed to review the progress and results of the programs implementation based on the RES&POA-2020, and the priority issues to be addressed in ensuring sustainable fisheries development and enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security in the Southeast Asian region. That was also to ensure that the implementation programs/activities are in line with the RES&POA-2020. To monitor the progress of the programs/activities implementation, the SEAFDEC Secretariat had prepared a survey questionnaire with the template for report on the implementation of the RES&POA-2020 (**Appendix 1**) which was sent to the AMSs for their cooperation and contributions to the said purposes.

The feedback from the SEAFDEC Member Countries to the questionnaire for mid-term implementation of the RES&POA-2020 was reviewed and presented at the Thirty-Eight Meeting of the Program Committee of the SEAFDEC in November 2015 (**Appendix 2**). Considering that the RES&POA-2020 have a specific timeframe towards 2020 which would be approaching very soon, the SEAFDEC Council at its 50th Meeting in 2018 suggested that this document should be reviewed in order to ensure that it is still up to date. Moreover, as the RES&POA-2020 were endorsed under the ASEAN mechanism. The Council stated that the need to review this document should be raised at the forthcoming meetings of the FCG/ASSP and ASWGF. Upon consideration by these two meetings, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries agreed to designate their respective focal points to review the Resolution and Plan of Action. In late 2018, the timeframe together with the activities and envisaged achievements (**Appendix 3**) were presented to the 41st Meeting of the Program Committee:

II. PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES FOR REVISION OF THE RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION

The priorities and key issues for revising the RES&POA-2020 will be synthesized from the feedback of the questionnaire provided by the AMSs. The findings from the synthesis will be further discussed with the National Coordinator for SEAFDEC Member Countries at the regional meeting for way forward of the RES&POA-2020 tentatively scheduling in May 2019.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider the workplan and timeline for revision of the RES&POA-2020, and provide guidance on activities toward the revision of the RES&POA-2020

Review of the Implementation of the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region by the ASEAN Member Countries (2011-2014)

The **Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020** were prepared by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in collaboration with ASEAN and SEAFDEC and were adopted by the Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for fisheries of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries during the Ministerial and Senior Official Meetings of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” held during 13-17 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Resolution and Plan of Action are envisaged to serve as policy framework and priority actions to support sustainable development of fisheries and enhancing the contribution from fisheries to food security and better livelihood of people in the region towards the coming decade.

On the occasion of 5-year implementation of the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 in 2015, SEAFDEC Secretariat as a coordinating body of the SEAFDEC would propose to review the progress and results of programs implementation based on the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action, and the priority issues to be addressed in ensuring sustainable fisheries development and enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security in the Southeast Asian region. This is also to ensure that the implementing programs and activities are in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action and maintained in the track towards 2020.

To monitor the progress of the programs and activities, SEAFDEC Secretariat has prepared a survey questionnaire and sent to all SEAFDEC Member Countries which would seek cooperation and contribution to the said purposes.

The followings are the feedback of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 contributed from the SEAFDEC Member Countries (as of July 2015):

1. Brunei Darussalam
2. Malaysia
3. Myanmar
4. Philippines
5. Thailand
6. Viet Nam

5-year Implementation of the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC RES¹ & POA² on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020

Contents

- I. Preparation of this document**
- II. Priority issues in implementing the 2011-RES & POA**
- III. Conclusion and way forward**

I. PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document presents the results of programs and activities that have been implemented in the Southeast Asian region based on the *2011 Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020* (2011-RES&POA), and compiled by the SEAFDEC Secretariat using a survey questionnaire. Based on inputs from the Member Countries, the priority issues, concerns and activities for implementing 2011-RES&POA are consolidated in this document.

Based on information from the countries, their activities had been rearranged where appropriate. This document is therefore meant to provide better understanding on the priority issues addressed by the countries for ensuring sustainable fisheries development and enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security in the Southeast Asian region. It is also envisaged that this document will be used as a regional reference for the Member Countries. In this regard, the Member Countries are kindly requested to review and provide comments/amendments for improvement of this document. For clarification and questions with regards to the results indicated in this document, please kindly contact worawit@seafdec.org.

II. PRIORITY ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2011-RES&POA

2.1 RESOLUTION

In Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, noticeable progress has been gained in various activities related to managing fishing capacity through a number of approaches, such as limiting the number of fishing licenses, establishing fishing zones, strengthening enforcement of fishery regulations, promoting responsible fishing gear and practices, and improving fisheries information collection systems. This has been attained through HRD and research programs to support better management of the fisheries, and enhance competitiveness in fish trade through improvement of food safety standards.

As reported, some countries have experienced varying degrees of success. In Malaysia for example, the National Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 has been developed which is currently being implemented. In Brunei Darussalam, fishery and habitat management programs/activities are well developed and integrated based on the results of the national research survey of fishery/habitat resources. Public awareness programs on such activities were also launched as form of national campaign in Brunei Darussalam to promote the reduced use of destructive fishing gear and practices in the country.

2.2 PLAN OF ACTION – PLANNING AND INFORMATION

Currently, a number of activities related to enhancing the fisheries resources have been implemented in Philippines through habitat protection. Various human resources capacity building programs were conducted by targeting the fisheries officers at the Department of Fisheries Malaysia to effectively gather fisheries-related information. In Viet Nam, the Master Plan of Fisheries Development (so-called Vision

¹ **RES** – Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020: <http://www.seafdec.org/download/resolution-and-plan-of-action-2011/>

² **POA** – Plan of Action: A. Planning and Information; B. Fisheries Management; C. Aquaculture; D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products; E. Fish Trade; and F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

2030) was approved and being implemented until the year 2020. To enhance sharing of such information, Officials of the Directorate of Fisheries of Viet Nam has been participating in relevant international and regional workshops.

2.3 PLAN OF ACTION – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

In the Philippines, many fisheries resource management plans were developed where activities are implemented through consultation and engagement of key stakeholders, such as the management plans for tuna, sardines, and blue swimming crabs. In the case of Viet Nam, the national guidelines for commercial fisheries management had been successfully developed.

Using the ecosystem approach to manage fisheries, a number of national frameworks and plans of action had been developed in some countries and currently implemented through resources survey, stakeholders' consultations and knowledge sharing programs. For example, results from resources survey had been used as basis for developing the management plan for habitat and fisheries resources in Myanmar. In Malaysia, the National EAFM Steering Committee and EAFM Technical Committee were established for the development of national EAFM framework and its plan of action. Tuna fisheries management plan in Viet Nam was drafted by integrating the ecosystem approach.

To ensure that climate change responses are integrated into fisheries policy framework, a variety of activities related to promotion of co-management have been undertaken in some countries including the Philippines. In addition, the capacity of fisheries communities and fisheries related organizations has been built in the Philippines to adopt alternative livelihoods that adapt to climate change in support to achieving sustainable development.

To enhance and promote participation of local communities, the Department of Fisheries Malaysia successfully established “Fishery Volunteer Community Program” with over 5000 members throughout the country. In the Philippines and Thailand, formulation of fisheries management policies always involved various stakeholders and achieved through support activities by research.

In the Philippines, a number of small fishing boats use sails and supplemental fuel such as biofuel/gas as means of promoting the use of alternative energy source for fishing boats.

To enhance appropriate employment practice in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, the Philippines is now being compliance of Labor Laws in employment of fishers.

A survey on non-traditional fishing grounds was conducted in Philippine waters to obtain information and knowledge on improving/finding potential fisheries resources that could be used for developing necessary guidelines and enhancing the capacity of relevant authorities and communities to collaboratively resolve conflicts with other stakeholders.

2.4 PLAN OF ACTION – MARINE FISHERIES

The NPOA-IUU Fishing is one of the major activities that have been formulated by a number of countries in the region, including Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Viet Nam, and Thailand. Moreover, Malaysia published the national guidelines on fishing licensing, boat registration, and port state measures to facilitate the implementation of the NPOA-IUU Fishing.

In many countries, such as Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, there has been a significant increase in the conduct of research on the impact of various fishing gear types and methods on the marine ecosystem. For example, a research on reduction of by-catch in trawl net was carried out in Malaysia, and studies on the impacts of various fishing gears and lights were conducted in the Philippines. In Viet Nam, trials on the use of circle hooks in line fishing to minimize the incidental catch of sea turtles was carried out. In some countries, such as Philippines, by-catch reduction program with its relevant fisheries management measures have been implemented and enforced.

One of main activities under resource enhancement program is the deployment of artificial reefs, which is being conducted in some countries in the region including Malaysia and Thailand. Study on the possible impacts of fish aggregating devices had been carried out in Philippines.

To ensure the inclusion of fisheries objectives in management plans of future MPAs and promote the adoption of the *refugia* concept in line with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Guidelines on the Use of Fisheries *Refugia* in Capture Fisheries Management, the Philippines has been exploring the possibility of applying the fishery *refugia* concept as means of increasing productivity of fishing grounds. In Malaysia, improvement of its national coordination and management of fish stock and critical habitats has been undertaken. Furthermore, Malaysia challenges to improve the sustainability of fish stocks through habitats management.

With regards to strengthening the efforts to address safety at sea, Viet Nam issued Decree No. 66/2005 to ensure the safety of fishers onboard and fishing vessels operating at sea. In the Philippines, monitoring of the working conditions of fishers onboard has been carried out. At the same time, providing safety materials and promoting appropriate boat design are also being sustained for the safety of fishers onboard as well as the vessels at sea.

A number of countries including Malaysia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam fully recognize the need to establish fishery policies and legal frameworks for inland fisheries management using the ecosystem approach. In Malaysia, the Fisheries Regulation and National Plan for Integrated Lake and Reservoir Management has been established. A number of scientific information and research activities have been conducted in Viet Nam for the development of management plan for inland fisheries, such as the study on environment-friendly fishing gears for inland, alternative livelihoods (tourism) to reduce the impacts of capture fisheries on the resources and environment.

In Malaysia, school children, village communities and working committees are being made aware of the importance of freshwater fisheries for food security, through a number of national activities on restocking of depleted fish stocks, conservation and reintroduction of endangered species, and improvement of fishing opportunities. As means of maintaining the natural fish stocks, Thailand has been implementing various fisheries resources restocking programs.

Indigenous freshwater fish sanctuaries and protected areas have been established in Malaysia with the specific objective of promoting coordinated planning on the use of inland waters. Community-based management system (so-called Tagal system practiced by Sabahan local traditional fishers in Sabah waters of Malaysia) was established to enhance inland fishery resources. Moreover, Malaysia developed national water resource policy and management measures through a wide range of stakeholders' consultation processes. In Viet Nam, the technology to enhance inland fisheries has been improved in close coordination with other relevant sectors such as rice farming and water resources management. A study on fishing capacity in inland fisheries was conducted in Viet Nam for the development of a co-management model.

2.5 PLAN OF ACTION – AQUACULTURE

Malaysia addresses social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable aquaculture through the development and implementation of national policies to transform and restructure freshwater aquaculture system, rearrange aquaculture activities for SMEs, encourage the involvement of young agropreneurs, promote good aquaculture practices, and enhance mobile marketing of agriculture products. Myanmar devolves co-management to the local authorities and stakeholders through the national project on sustainable development and mangrove friendly small-scale aquaculture and fisheries aimed at building the capacity of communities for co-managing fisheries and aquaculture systems within the mangrove ecosystem. The Philippines initiated a national program on mariculture development for fisherfolk, providing infrastructures, equipment and technical support.

Replanting of mangroves in the Philippines had been implemented through rehabilitation program, in the priority areas including abandoned, underdeveloped and underutilized fishponds. The activities were implemented under Fish Pond Lease Agreements where the key biodiversity areas were identified by Department of Environment and Natural Resources. In addition to that of promoting environment-friendly

aquaculture, the Philippines implemented a number of programs/activities for establishment of aquaculture livelihoods, including community-based multi-species hatcheries, organic aquaculture, organic farming protocols known as the Philippine National Standard on Organic Aquaculture, and seaweeds development at national level.

With regards to the development and implementation of the ASEAN guidelines for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices, various activities to build the capacities of human resources (fish farmers) were carried out in Brunei Darussalam fulfilling the minimum requirements in biosecurity, and in Malaysia for promoting responsible aquaculture. A number of farms complying with Good Aquaculture Practices had increased in Malaysia and Thailand. Monitoring program on the use of drugs and others is being carried out in Malaysia to ensure the safety of food for consumption, and improvement of the quality of aquaculture products.

Malaysia established its aquaculture industrial zoning to increase production and create additional employment. In addition, knowledge of fisheries officers of Malaysia on new techniques has been improved through its national training program on management of freshwater aquaculture for rural area development. This aims to support the integration of aquaculture into rural development activities. In Myanmar, the number of small-scale fish farmers had increased through its national project on small-scale aquaculture extension for promotion of livelihood of rural communities (4-year project from 2009-2012). The results showed that the livelihoods of farmers in 5 townships had been improved, and the capacity of DOF local staff working in the project areas had been enhanced.

With regards to the implementation of measures and strategies at national level to monitor/regulate aquaculture operations, a number of countries (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam) have developed and implemented national programs of activities related to management of aquaculture operations. In Brunei Darussalam, several R&D activities were carried out to develop and increase aquaculture production within the context of environmental friendly concept. In Malaysia, environmental impact assessment has been conducted and reported, initiating a national regular monitoring program for aquaculture development. Moreover, Malaysia provides technical advice to fish farmers on aquaculture site selection, fish handling, and diseases and culture management through the establishment of E-Aquaculture. The capacity of Thai farmers has been enhanced on breeding and other aspects in response to the needs of farmers, resulting in increased aquaculture production. In Viet Nam, the capacity of fish farmers has been enhanced in the aspect of fisheries products improvement to meet the requirements of the importers.

To provide support for R&D in improving the existing genetic resources, Nucleus Broodstock Center and Broodstock Multiplying Center have been established in Malaysia, resulting in the improvement of the genetic characteristics of red tilapia. Regarding the production and distribution of specific pathogen-free (SPF) and quality seeds being promoted in Malaysia, SPF *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* has been produced, domesticated and improved. In Brunei Darussalam, good quality seeds have been produced to supply industries. Moreover, fish husbandry practices were introduced through a model-farming project for promoting fish cage culture operations in Brunei Darussalam.

In Malaysia, quality broodstocks have been provided and introduced to local farmers through training programs on broodstock management, for them to apply the concept of aquatic biosecurity, especially the small-scale hatchery operators and farmers. In addition, a number of farmers have adopted the appropriate technology for their hatcheries.

To encourage good employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulation, Malaysia established the guidelines on occupational safety and health “Act 1994” based on results of survey on safety conducted at workplaces.

Malaysia established the national committee on risk assessment and importation of alien species since 2011 to reduce negative environmental impacts in accordance with the Regional Guidelines on the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals and Plants. The Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services was also established covering 52 entry points around the country for monitoring the transfer of aquatic organisms.

In Malaysia, a national mechanism and several programs were established and developed to continue the efforts of controlling serious disease outbreaks, including the establishment of fish disease mechanism for surveillance and notification.

The following activities were implemented in some countries to enhance their capabilities in the diagnosis and control of fish diseases:

Brunei Darussalam

- Periodic surveillance program for diseases in aquaculture farms
- Establishment of diseases early warning system

Malaysia

- Capacity building program of the National Fish Health Lab
- Capacity building program for farmers, extension staff, and state biosecurity staff
- Proficiency testing on aquatic animal diseases
- Establishment of Reference Lab for timely access to disease control experts in the region

Thailand

- Establishment of trade agreement to conduct disease surveillance program for raw products from bivalves, shrimp, and fish

With regards to raising awareness of new diseases that may pose risks, Malaysia makes sure to immediately report any occurrences of diseases. In Viet Nam, there is an ongoing project on environmental monitoring for aquaculture on fish diseases implemented from 2015 until 2020.

To support the development of suitable alternative protein sources that will reduce the dependence on fishmeal, Malaysia has conducted R&D to find suitable alternative protein sources to replace fishmeal by focusing on locally-available ingredients.

To enable the aquaculture sector to mitigate and adopt better to the impacts of climate change, Malaysia developed the national policy on climate change in 2010, and conducted several R&D activities on climate change, for example, assessment of the effects of climate change on aquaculture, water quality, and aquaculture production. Malaysia also plans to develop inshore and offshore aquaculture management plan.

2.6 PLAN OF ACTION - OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

In order to support the development/application of technologies to optimize the utilization of catches and reduce onboard and onshore post-harvest losses, capacity building programs have been implemented in Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand, focusing on seafood processing technology, fish handling, food safety and standards of fisheries products. A research activity for value-added marine products was conducted in Thailand. In Philippines, a comprehensive plan on post-harvest and ancillary industries has been developed and implemented.

To promote traditional fish products, the Philippines provides technical assistance program including training on food safety and safety requirements (GMP/SSOP/HACCP and HALAL Certifications), and information campaign by disseminating IEC materials.

Malaysia and Philippines have established the national traceability system with mechanism to certify or validate information for the supply chain of fishery products in line with international standards. In Malaysia, such systems include traceability system for ornamental and food fish; traceability system for all supply chain (since 2011); E-Biosecurity system for fish (since 2012); and E-Permit for live fish movement at the entry/exist point (since 2013). As for monitoring and implementing its national program on traceability, the Philippines implement traceability system and enforcement scheme in various production stages of the whole supply chain of fish and fishery products.

With regards to promoting the system for quality and safety of fish and fishery products, National Reference Lab was established in Malaysia for fish health inspection. In order to support the competitive position of ASEAN fish products in the world market, six (6) laboratories in Malaysia were accredited with ISO/IEC17025. In Thailand, focus was given to inspection and certification of fishery products for

standard and monitoring from farm to table including certification for quality of marine products for export. Facilities and services of laboratories in the Philippines have been upgraded for implementing risk-based inspection and recognition scheme to test those laboratories.

To encourage relevant control agencies in applying appropriate legislation and coordinated activities regarding handling, processing, quality and safety of seafood, distribution, etc., Malaysia established Market Access Group Meeting consisting of Central Competent Authority and other competent authorities on fish and fisheries products. In the Philippines, Codes of practice on proper handling, processing, storage, and distribution of fish and fishery products were developed and implemented. In addition, mandatory accreditation of cold storage warehouse and assurance of fish/fishery products for safety and quality have been developed.

Philippines delivered capacity building programs and technology transfer to BFAR regional offices, industries, and other stakeholders on post-harvest technologies, GMP, SSPO/HACCP and HALAL Certifications. These were aimed at upgrading the technical skills and competencies of personnel in the public and private sectors on fisheries post-harvest technology and food safety management systems.

Malaysia developed and implemented Good Aquaculture Practice Guidelines and Hygiene Onboard Guidelines for handling and transportation, and hygiene. Furthermore, harmonization of Malaysia's GAP Guidelines with that of the ASEAN was conducted. In the Philippines, standard and guidelines for fish handling, transport of fishery and aquaculture products were formulated and established.

2.7 PLAN OF ACTION – FISH TRADE

To increase the competitiveness of its fishery products in regional and international markets, Malaysia has established and implemented the following activities:

- Promoting the ASEAN-GAP Standard
- Controlling transportation of live finfish (since 2010) in accordance with WTO notification of import requirements for live fish
- Controlling movement of live fish (since 2011) in accordance with the guidelines on responsible movement of live food finfish
- Controlling the use of chemicals in aquaculture (since 2014) in accordance with the guidelines on the use of chemicals in aquaculture
- Branding of fish and fishery products including HALAL foods

On the activities related to strengthening the cooperation among Member Countries of SEAFDEC to work towards common understanding on positions reflected in international fish trade fora, Malaysia has been actively participating in and providing inputs to various relevant meetings (ASWGFi, CITES, CODEC, FTA, RCEP-SWGSPS, SEAFDEC, etc.).

With regards to the implementation of appropriate international, capacity of officials of Department of Fisheries Malaysia has been built for biotoxin analysis.

To strengthen risk assessment and R&D related to the use of GMO products in fisheries and aquaculture, including food safety issues, Malaysia presented, discussed and shared information on the use of GMO products in fisheries and aquaculture at the GMO Meeting under arrangement by the Department of Biosafety – Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia.

2.8 PLAN OF ACTION – REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY FORMULATION

Brunei Darussalam has developed national fishery policy based on relevant regional management policy frameworks. Malaysia participated in various international fora to reflect the country's position on relevant issues.

III. CLUSION AND WAYS FORWARD

A number of programs and activities had been implemented in the Member Countries in line with the 2011-RES&POA since its adoption in 2011. It can be said that the 2011-RES&POA is effective in addressing a range of programs/activities that the countries aimed to tackle. Based on the information from the countries, it seemed that the most priority area is on “management” of marine and inland fisheries, followed by aquaculture. More involvement and interactions among key stakeholders to formulate/develop national policies and frameworks were also observed.

A summary of major findings based on inputs from the countries is as follows:

- Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam actively participated in reviewing the programs/activities implemented in line with 2011-RES&POA;
- Malaysia accomplishes the development of 2020 NPOA on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security while the other countries also implemented a number of relevant programs/activities in line with the 2011-RES&POA;
- Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam increase their efforts in promoting the involvement of key stakeholders in the process of developing/formulating/ implementing specific fishery management plans;
- Ecosystem approach for fisheries management is one of the key aspects that have been adopted for the development of national policies and frameworks;
- Various capacities of local communities and fisheries-related organizations have been built and prepared for adopting alternative livelihoods that adapt to climate change in support to achieving sustainable development;
- Fisheries resource surveys are being used as source of information for management planning, while fish restocking program is still a conventional way of enhancing fisheries resources;
- Efforts of the countries in monitoring and regulating the development of aquaculture are within the context of environment-friendly concept; and
- Efforts have been made by the countries in promoting traditional fish and fishery products to be more competitive in the world market in compliance with international standards.

It is possible that still a lot more relevant activities are not being reported in this document due to limited information provided and the period for information compilation. In this connection, the countries are kindly requested to provide inputs and information regarding the implementation of the 2011-RES&POA in the next 5 years.

Timeframe, Activities and Envisaged Achievements of the Revision of the RES&POA-2020

| Timeframe | Activities and achievements | Remarks |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Nov. 2018 | The Forty-First Meeting of the Program Committee Meeting of the SEAFDEC, and the Twenty-First Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) | Output: Adoption of the tentative work plan for revising the RES&POA-2020 |
| Jan. to Feb. 2019 | Evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2020 | AMSs to provide inputs based on the template reporting on the implementation of the RES&POA-2020 (Appendix 1) Feedbacks from the AMSs will be analysed for evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2020. |
| April 2019 | The Fifty-First Meeting of the Council | The Council takes note on the progress for evaluation of the RES&POA-2020, including timeframe for revision of the RES&POA-2020 |
| 2 to 3 May 2019 | The Regional Meeting for Way Forward of the RES&POA-2020 | Inputs: (1) Priority and issues by countries' presentation (2) Review the results from the questionnaire Output: (1) Prioritization, clarification and specification of issues for the revision of the RES & POA-2020 (2) Dissemination of the results from the evaluating of the RES&POA-2020 |
| May 2019 (Tentative) | The 26 th ASWGFi Meeting | ASWGFi considers to review and update the RES&POA-2020 |
| May 2019 | Nomination of the ASEAN National Focal Points | The National Focal Point will be nominated by the SEAFDEC Council Director |
| May to Aug. 2019 | Series of technical meetings for revision of the RES&POA-2020 | Inputs for the zero draft of RES&POA beyond 2020 (rev.) |
| Oct. 2019 | The Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC National Focal Points | The zero draft of RES&POA beyond 2020 (rev.) |
| Nov. 2019 | The Forty-Second Meeting of the Program Committee Meeting of the SEAFDEC, and the Twenty-Second Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) | Adoption of the zero draft of RES&POA beyond 2020 (rev.) by the FCG/ASSP |
| Apr. 2020 | The Fifty-Second Meeting of the Council | Adoption of the RES&POA beyond 2020 (rev.) by the Council |
| July 2020 | The Twenty-Seven ASWGFi Meeting | Adoption of the RES&POA beyond 2020 (rev.) by ASWGFi |
| August 2020 | Meetings of higher authorities of ASEAN | Adoption of the RES&POA-2020 (rev.) by higher authorities of ASEAN |

JAPANESE TRUST FUND (2020-2024)

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Japan has provided SEAFDEC with the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) since 1998 for about 20 years already (**Appendix 1**). Currently, the JTF is on its 6th Program (JTF6) under the title 'Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region', which started in 2014 and will finish in 2019 (SEAFDEC fiscal year). As it is expected that new projects under JTF will start in 2020 for 5 years, SEAFDEC submitted the draft Framework and Project Proposal Sheets to the Fisheries Agency of Japan in December 2017 for their consideration, and as a reference during the national budget request process.

Referring to the project proposals submitted by SEAFDEC, the Government of Japan decided on the draft budget of JTF for 2020 (SEAFDEC fiscal year) in order to extend the JTF6 until 2024 (5-year extension) under the same program title: 'Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region' as of 2018, and now the fiscal budgets of the project proposals are in the process of approval by the Japanese Diet.

Thus, the JTF (2020-2024) could be named as JTF6-II (Phase2), and will consist of around 10 projects mainly based on the project proposals submitted by SEAFDEC under the following three pillars:

- 1) Strengthening the promotion of sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia
- 2) Promotion of sustainable aquaculture and resources enhancement in Southeast Asia
- 3) Promotion of sustainable development of inland fisheries in Southeast Asia

In 2019, SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments (TD, MFRD, AQD, MFRDMD and IFRDMD) will identify the expected outcomes and outputs of new projects for 5 years (2020-2024) including the indicators, and develop the draft 2020 annual plans with 5-year master plans. Then, SEAFDEC will submit these draft new annual plans for JTF6-II to the next PCM in 2019 for confirmation, approval and endorsement.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note of the procedure and planning schedule of the Japanese Trust Fund (2020-2024).

I. Program Titles of JTF 1 to JTF6

| | Period | Titles |
|-------|---------------|--|
| JTF-1 | 1998-2003 | Promoting Establishment of Regional Fisheries Policy in Southeast Asia |
| JTF-2 | 2002-2013 | Promotion of Sustainable Use of Shared Stocks in Southeast Asia |
| JTF-3 | 2003-2006 | Project for Supporting Establishment of Sustainable Regional Fisheries Systems in Southeast Asia |
| JTF-4 | 2004-2009 | Environment-friendly Regional Development in Southeast Asia |
| JTF-5 | 2010-2014 | Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture and Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia |
| JTF-6 | 2014-2019 | Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region |

II. Outlines of JTF6-II

Program Title: **Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region
2020-2024**

Term of Program:

Three Pillars and Project Examples:

1. Strengthening the promotion of sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia

- Measures to eliminate IUU fishing (including eACDS, PSM, RFVR, etc.)
- Fishery statistics and information
- Good manufacturing practices for fish and fishery products

2. Promotion of sustainable aquaculture and resources enhancement in Southeast Asia

- International fisheries related issues (including sharks & rays, tropical anguillid eels, etc.)
- Sustainable utilization of fishery resources and resources enhancement
- Sustainable aquaculture (including aquatic animal health, diet, etc.)
- Resources management of pelagic species

3. Promotion of sustainable development of inland fisheries in Southeast Asia

- Management schemes for inland fisheries
- Small-scale fisheries management

OPERATIONS OF SEAFDEC TRAINING AND RESEARCH VESSELS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past decades, SEAFDEC Member Countries have confronted with fisheries resources depletion in particular the coastal area. To mitigate the issue on sea food supply to the people, some SEAFDEC Member Countries increased their interests to promote the offshore fisheries resources exploitation in order to reduce the fishing pressure of the coastal fisheries resources in their waters. This is consistent with the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Regional Towards 2020, as mentioned in the Plan of Action # 18 “*Investigate the potential of under-utilized fisheries resources and promote their exploitation in a precautionary manner based upon analysis of the best available scientific information*”. In order to fulfill the needs of these SEAFDEC Member Countries in national, sub-regional, and regional initiatives in the fisheries resources exploration, and monitoring on marine environment that impacted to habitat, as well as to enhance human resource on fisheries resources exploration, marine environment research survey, fishing technology, navigation, marine engineering and fish handling onboard fishing vessel, SEAFDEC has worked in close collaboration with the SEAFDEC Member Countries and other relevant partners at national, sub-regional, and regional levels, to undertake fisheries resources and environment by research survey and promote responsible fishing and practices through the utilization of two (2) SEAFDEC’s training/research vessels, e.g. 1) M.V. SEAFDEC and 2) M.V. SEAFDEC 2. The activities in 2018 and proposed plans in 2019 are reported by the Training Department (TD) as below;

1) M.V. SEAFDEC 2

In 2018, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has successfully carried out a resources and marine environment survey entitled “The Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand (Cambodia Thailand and Viet Nam)”, in collaboration among SEAFDEC and three (3) SEAFDEC Member Countries around the Gulf of Thailand, e.g. Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, from 17 August to 18 October 2018 (63 days). Total survey stations in Cambodia and Thailand waters were 73 stations.

In 2019, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has a schedule to improve and recondition the vessel under supporting by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The schedule is from 6 February to 11 April 2019 and followed by a sea trial which is scheduled to conduct after the completion of dry docking in April 2019. With reference to the 41st SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting organized in November 2018, the Program Committee Member for Viet Nam proposed to make use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the conduct of a survey on marine fisheries in Viet Nam for a period of two months from June to August 2019. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia also requested for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for a resources survey by mid-water trawl in Malaysian waters, tentatively scheduled in September 2019. In addition, the Program Committee Member for Thailand also informed the Program Committee Meeting that Thailand is planning to conduct a training course on marine resources survey onboard a Thai research vessel in 2019. SEAFDEC Training Department has communicated with responsible national agencies of Viet Nam and Malaysia. Recently, TD has received updated information from the Directorate of Fisheries of Viet Nam on the request to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the conduct of hydro-acoustic survey in Viet Nam in 2019, to be postponed to 2020. While, the preparation for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the Mid-water Trawl Survey in Malaysian waters is in progress. TD expected a total of 20 operation days of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2019 for Malaysia only.

2) M.V. SEAFDEC

In 2018, M.V. SEAFDEC has successfully carried out the marine environmental research survey in the Andaman Sea in collaboration between SEAFDEC and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Thailand by the Phuket Marine Biological Center for three (3) cruises with a total of 109 days at sea. The first cruise was carried out from 15 January to 25 March 2018 (69 days). The second cruise was carried out from 26 March to 4 April 2018 (10 days) and the third cruise was carried out from 28 November to 27 December 2018 (30 days).

In 2019, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the National Disaster Warning Center, Thailand, plans to carry out two cruises on the maintenance of Tsunami Warning System in the Andaman Sea. The first cruise has been successfully carried out from 10 to 25 January 2019 (16 days). The second cruise is scheduled on 7-31 October 2019 (24 days) with a total of 40 working days at sea.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2018, and to endorse the proposed plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2019; and
- To take note the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC in 2018 and the proposed plans of operations in 2019.

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SEAFDEC AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

I. COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

During the period after the 50th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council until the 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC established collaborative arrangements with other organizations as follows:

A. International/regional organizations, non-Member Governments and Donors

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

Under the framework of the existing Partnership Agreement between SEAFDEC and the FAO/Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) which was established since 2013 for SEAFDEC to provide inputs to ASFA, on 7 September 2018, SEAFDEC/AQD signed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with FAO for the “Digitisation, Open Access Deposition and the Provision of URL’s to Existing ASFA Records of the Conference Proceedings Published by SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department (TD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Aquaculture Department (AQD).” Under this LOA, AQD will be producing no less than 850 full-text PDF files of documents published by SEAFDEC for deposition in open-access repository; preparation of approximately 600 ASFA records for inclusion in the ASFA database; and providing links for approximately 250 digitized documents with existing ASFA records. FAO will provide USD 18,466.00 as funding for the project; and the duration is from 1 August 2018 until 31 July 2019.

In February 2019, another Letter of Agreement was also signed between FAO and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD for provision of services in the implementation of “Development of Capacity Building Plan to support Management of Inland Aquatic Resources, Development of EAFM/EAA Training Modules and Conducting Training of Trainers on EAFM/EAA.” Under this LOA, IFRDMD will support the implementation of the project on “Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Inland Fisheries Practices in Freshwater Ecosystems of High Conservation Value” (IFISH) which is funded by GEF with FAO as the Executing Agency and the MMAF of Indonesia as Government Executing Partner. IFRDMD will prepare development and/or improvement of capacity building plan to support management of inland aquatic resources, development of EAFM/EAA training modules, and conducting Training of Trainers on EAFM/EAA at 5 locations (Cilacap District, Sukabumi district, Kampar district, Kapuas district and South Barito district) under the IFISH project. For this, FAO would provide to IFRDMD a total amount not exceeding IDR 1,355,370,000 (One billion three hundred fifty-five million three hundred seventy thousand rupiah) for the implementation of activities; and the duration of this LOA is tentatively from February 2019 to November 2019.

In March 2019, SEAFDEC and FAO also signed a Letter of Agreement for provision of “Joint Effort to Organize the Capacity Development Workshop on Estimation and Reporting of SDG Indicator 14.4.1 for the Asia Pacific Region.” Under this LOA, the “Capacity Development Workshop on Estimation and Reporting of SDG Indicator 14.4.1 for the Asia Pacific Region” will be organized tentatively in August-September 2019, and would be participated by about 20 participants from the SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as other countries in the Asia and Pacific Region. The total budget under this LOA is USD 16,450. The LOA enter into force from 1 March 2019, and will terminate on 30 December 2019.

- **China-ASEAN Center for Joint Research & Promotion of Marine Aquaculture Technology**

On 1 June 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) and China-ASEAN Center for Joint Research and Promotion of Marine Aquaculture Technology. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for the effective and mutually beneficial crustaceans and fishes cooperation. This MOU shall remain in effect for an initial period of two (2) years.

- **Ocean University of China (OUC)**

On 1 June 2018, Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) were signed to establish AQD's international link with two institutions under the Ocean University of China. The first MOU was with Shangdong International Science and Technology Demonstration Cooperation Base for Marine Aquaculture and Fishery College of Marine Life Sciences, with the purpose to establish a framework for the effective and mutually beneficial marine aquaculture and fishery cooperation; while the second MOU was with Seaweed Base for International Science and Technology Cooperation, with the purpose to establish a framework for the effective and mutually beneficial seaweed cooperation. Both MOUs shall remain in effect for the period of five (5) years.

- **Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)**

In 2018, SEAFDEC/AQD received funding support of USD 99,601.15 from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for the conduct of the "ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia." The RTC was organized on 20-22 August 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the objectives to bring together representatives of ASEAN Member States as well as technical experts to assess the status of emergency preparedness and response systems (EPRS) related to outbreaks of transboundary diseases currently being practiced in the region in order to identify gaps and other initiatives for regional cooperation.

SEAFDEC also received funding support from JAIF for the implementation of a 1-year project on "Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in AMS with GIS and RS Technology" by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and IFRDMD. The total funding from JAIF for this project was USD 279,959.90. The objectives of the project are: to promote the monitoring method contribute to effective management of inland fishery resources by using GIS mapping/RS technology in AMS countries; and to establish method for predicting catching condition from the environmental data by satellite on RS using GIS mapping technology.

- **United States Department of Interior (US-DOI)**

Under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of the Interior (US-DOI) and SEAFDEC which was established since March 2017, the US-DOI and SEAFDEC discussed and agreed to expand the cooperation through signing of additional Annex to the MOU.

The Annex 2 Concerning "Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam" was signed and become effective starting 31 July 2018. This Annex aims to build capacity within SEAFDEC and Lower Mekong nations to construct and maintain low head fish passes to restore fisheries connectivity at irrigation facilities, weirs, and road prisms. Specific objectives of this Annex are to: 1) Coordinate field fish passage barrier inventories in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam; 2) Design and construct one demonstration fish pass in Cambodia, one demonstration fish pass in Thailand, and one demonstration fish pass in Viet Nam; and 3) Project administration and coordination. The duration of this Annex would run until 30 September 2019, with the total budget of USD 450,000.

B. Agencies within the Member Countries

- **Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA)**

SEAFDEC established Arrangement for Scientific and Technical Cooperation with the Japan Fisheries Research Agency (formerly FRA) since 2004, and Arrangement for Academic and Educational Cooperation with National Fisheries University (NFU) since 2005. These two arrangements had been extended every 5 years since the establishment. As the former FRA and the NFU were recently merged into the new Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (new FRA), the new Arrangement was signed between SEAFDEC and the new FRA.

The Arrangement for Scientific and Educational Cooperation between Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) and SEAFDEC was signed on 22 January 2019. This Arrangement covers the period of five years from the signing date with the objectives of: 1) development of scientific and technical cooperation in various fields that are of interest to the two relevant organizations under the mutual understanding and interrelationship; 2) development of academic and educational cooperation in various fields that are of interest to the two relevant organizations under the mutual understanding and interrelationship; and 3) detailed discussions between FRA and SEAFDEC if required in the case of each practical matter.

- **Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (AMAFRHR), Republic of Indonesia**

In January 2019, SEAFDEC signed “Arrangement for Cooperation between Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resources Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (AMAFRHR), Republic of Indonesia and SEAFDEC Concerning Research Cooperation on Inland Fisheries in the Member Countries of SEAFDEC” with a view to facilitating the allocation of resources for regional activities of SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD), as well as allowing entry of foreign researchers under SEAFDEC projects into Indonesia. The Arrangement became effective from the signing of both signatories until December 2022. This Arrangement was annexed with four Plans of Operation which shall be constituted as an integral part of this Arrangement, namely: 1) Research activities on catadromous eel resources in Southeast Asia; 2) Research activities on promotion of responsible utilization of inland fisheries in Southeast Asia; 3) Research activities on enhancing sustainable utilization and management scheme of tropical anguillid eel resources in Southeast Asia; and 4) Research activities on strengthening the effective management of inland fisheries and aquaculture in AMS with GIS and RS technology.

- **Department of Fisheries, Thailand – Aquatic Animal Health Research and Development Division (DOF-AAHRDD)**

In August 2018, AQD signed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Department of Fisheries, Thailand – Aquatic Animal Health Research and Development Division (AAHRDD) to collaborate in the efforts of conducting the “ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia,” with funding support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Under this LOA, both organizations will share the responsibility for fund management, reporting and implementation.

- **Southern Vocational Institute of Agriculture, Thailand**

On 24 October 2018, SEAFDEC signed an MOU with Southern Vocational Institute of Agriculture, under the Office of Vocational Education Commission of Thailand, on development of manpower for training. The cooperation has objectives to build human capacity through the conduct of training, exchange of staff, and participation of staff to workshop, seminar and discussion on specific subjects; conduct collaborative research; development and exchange information technologies, including development of network of information; enhance multi-lateral cooperation among public-, private-sector and inter-governmental organization; and promote development of fishing technologies. The MOU would be valid for the period of 5 years starting from the signing date.

- **Burapha University (BUU), Thailand**

On 27 October 2018, SEAFDEC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Burapha University (BUU), Thailand and SEAFDEC for cooperation on educational and research activities. The areas of cooperation under this MOU include: a) exchange of research materials, publications and information; b) development and operation of joint academic programs; c) support for distance learning courses; d) organization of joint research programs; e) exchange of students/staffs; f) development of common curricula in areas of mutual interest; and g) co-operation in other academic and research activities. This MOU serves as general collaborative frameworks without legal and financial obligations of both Partners; however, to undertake particular activities, specific activity agreements would be

formalized based on the mutual agreement of the Partners. The MOU would valid from the date of signing for a period of five (5) years.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note of the establishment of collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other international/organizations, non-member countries and donors, as well as the agencies of the Member Countries.

SEAFDEC GENDER STRATEGY

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout the past decades, the importance of gender equality and equity has been well recognized by a number of international instruments and policy frameworks, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. Specifically for the ASEAN region, guided by 1988 Declaration on the Advancement of Women in ASEAN, the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women (ASW) was established in 1975, and was subsequently elevated to ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) in 2001. This ACW carries out the coordination and monitoring of the ASEAN's key regional priorities and cooperation on women's issues and concerns asserting women's empowerment.

As for the region's fisheries sector, the "Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020" which was adopted during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011 asserts the required actions to "*Strengthen human capacity of relevant stakeholders through mobilization of resources and the harmonization of initiatives that support fisheries communities and governments, with a special focus on the women and youth.*" Along this line, the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC Toward 2030, adopted during the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in November 2017, also specifies a Strategy toward "*Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries.*" Member Countries' respective governments and SEAFDEC therefore hold the responsibility to ensure the implementation of commitments agreed in the aforementioned global and regional frameworks, while pursuing the sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture.

To support the integration of gender perspectives in fisheries within SEAFDEC and its Member Countries, SEAFDEC therefore proposed during the 50th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in March 2018, in Siem Reap, Cambodia to develop a "**SEAFDEC Gender Strategy.**" It is envisaged that the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy would provide an overarching framework to facilitate SEAFDEC's efforts toward integrating gender in its future programs and projects, which would eventually support the integrating gender perspectives in fisheries in the respective countries.

In line with the policy directives given by the Council, SEAFDEC by the Gender Working Team comprising members from SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department (TD), drafted a "SEAFDEC Gender Strategy." Subsequently, SEAFDEC convened the "Inter-Departmental Meeting on Development of SEAFDEC Gender Strategy" on 3-4 September 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, to finalize the draft, in consultation with the SEAFDEC Gender Focal Persons from AQD, MFRDMD and IFRDMD. The final draft, therefore presented at 41st Program Committee Meeting in November 2018 and noted by the PCM Members, which appears in **Appendix 1**. It is expected that the final draft of the Strategy to be submitted to the 51st Council Meeting for endorsement.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To consider and approve the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy; and
- To provide guidance in order to enhance the implementation of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy

SEAFDEC Gender Strategy

Mainstreaming gender in SEAFDEC and its programs

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an autonomous inter-governmental body with the vision towards “*sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region.*” Working with the national fisheries agencies in 11 SEAFDEC Member Countries¹ as well as with relevant partners, and being aware that gender is one of the important issues in ensuring the sustainable development of the fisheries sector of Southeast Asia, which includes largely small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, SEAFDEC is therefore adopting its Gender Strategy to facilitate gender mainstreaming at all levels of the organization, and serve as an organizational overarching framework to facilitate SEAFDEC’s efforts in integrating gender in its programs, projects, and activities. The SEAFDEC Gender Strategy is also intended to subsequently support the integration of gender perspectives in fisheries and aquaculture in the Member Countries of SEAFDEC.

International and Regional Policies on Gender in Fisheries

In recognition of the global issues related to food security and alleviation of poverty over the past decades, the international, regional, and national communities have been giving more focus on gender equity in sustainable development. Given such background, the UN Sustainable Development Goals² include targets that address issues on gender, human rights, and social well-being in small-scale fisheries development. Likewise, gender equity and equality are also upheld as fundamental guiding principles in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)³ that calls for concerted efforts on the part of all stakeholders to include gender equality as integral part of all small-scale fisheries development strategies.

In the Southeast Asian region, gender perspective has also been highlighted in the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020⁴, which calls for “*strengthened capacity of relevant stakeholders and harmonized initiatives that support fishing communities and governments, with a special focus on the women and youth.*” During the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in November 2017, the Council adopted the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC, including the Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030⁵, specifically stating “*Strategy 5: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries.*”

Goal

SEAFDEC as gender-responsive and gender-sensitive in pursuing sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia

¹ SEAFDEC Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam

² UN. (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. United Nations General Assembly A/RES/70/1

³ FAO. (2015). Voluntary Guideline for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations. Rome, Italy

⁴ SEAFDEC. (2011). Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Fisheries Center, Bangkok, Thailand

⁵ SEAFDEC. (2017). Report of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Fisheries Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Objectives

The SEAFDEC Gender Strategy strives to mainstream and integrate gender perspectives into the SEAFDEC organization, and in its programs, projects, and activities to ensure that men, women, and youth at all levels, access equitable benefits in the sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture.

Strategies

In order to achieve the objectives, the following strategies should be implemented:

1. *Mainstreaming Gender at All Levels of the Organization*
 - 1.1 Implement gender equity and equality in the organization's human resources management and development
 - 1.2 Enhance the awareness and capacity of the human resources at all levels on gender aspects
 - 1.3 Designate and empower the SEAFDEC Gender Focal Persons (SGFP) from SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments
2. *Integrating Gender in SEAFDEC Programs and Projects*
 - 2.1 Consider including gender sensitivity aspects in the development of programs and projects
 - 2.2 Integrate gender perspectives throughout the cycle of gender-sensitive programs and projects by:
 - 2.2.1 Incorporating the conduct of gender analysis in the baseline surveys of project sites to understand the gender conditions that require interventions
 - 2.2.2 Providing appropriate interventions to ensure equal opportunities to male and female stakeholders in accessing and receiving benefits from fishery resources, information, financial sources, and capacity building opportunities
 - 2.2.3 Promoting equitable participation of male and female stakeholders in the implementation of programs and projects where applicable
 - 2.2.4 Collecting and compiling sex-disaggregated data throughout the implementation of programs and projects
 - 2.2.5 Conducting impact analysis of the program and project interventions to male and female stakeholders
 - 2.2.6 Integrating gender perspectives when disseminating the results from programs and projects
 - 2.3 Advance the capacity of SEAFDEC and Member Countries' staff involved in programs and projects to enable them to integrate gender aspects in the program/project cycle
 - 2.4 Explore possible funding sources to support the programs and projects that address issues on gender in fisheries and aquaculture
3. *Incorporating Gender Perspectives in All Events Organized by SEAFDEC*
 - 3.1 Strive towards equal opportunities for the participation of male and female representatives from Member Countries and other organizations in all events organized by SEAFDEC
 - 3.2 Collect and compile sex-disaggregated data throughout the conduct of all events by SEAFDEC
4. *Boosting the Visibility of SEAFDEC as a Gender-responsive and Gender-sensitive Organization*
 - 4.1 Produce articles relevant to gender integration in programs, projects, and activities for SEAFDEC publications and information tools/materials
 - 4.2 Promote the work of SEAFDEC on gender at events organized by SEAFDEC and other agencies
5. *Strengthening Further the Cooperation and Collaboration with Member Countries and Other Organizations on Gender Aspects*
 - 5.1 Participate in meetings, conferences, seminars, and other events on gender organized by the SEAFDEC Member Countries and other organizations
 - 5.2 Invite participation of the Member Countries and other organizations in events organized by SEAFDEC as well as encourage contribution of articles on gender to SEAFDEC publications

PROCEDURES FOR INVITING OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO ATTEND THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL MEETING

I. BACKGROUND

In the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC, the Article 12 on “Co-operation with Other Organizations” states that *“In order to fulfill its purpose, the Center may co-operate with governments and organizations external to the Center as well as other international organizations and, for this purpose, may conclude agreements or arrangements with those organizations.”* The Article 13 on “Assistance from Other Organizations” also states that *“The Center may, by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of the Directors of the Council, receive assistance from governments and organizations external to the Center as well as other international organizations, provided that no condition contrary to the purpose of the Center is attached to such assistance.”* In line with the Articles 12 and 13 of the Agreement, SEAFDEC has established close cooperation with several other organizations and non-member governments having a mutual interest with SEAFDEC, to jointly carry out activities that are beneficial to the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

As the work of SEAFDEC has been expanded to cover a wide range of subjects that are of regional/global interest throughout the past decades, other organizations and non-member governments desiring to establish cooperation with SEAFDEC have also expressed their interest to attend SEAFDEC events, including the SEAFDEC Council Meetings. The 32nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held in 2000 therefore adopted the “Guidelines on the Status of Various Organizations and Private Agencies Participation in SEAFDEC Programs” with a view to establishing the principles for inviting other organizations and governments external to the Center to participate in the SEAFDEC activities. Nevertheless, during its 50th Meeting in 2018, the SEAFDEC Council viewed that a clearer procedure for inviting other organizations and non-member governments to attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting is necessary; and tasked the Secretariat to develop a Draft Procedures for consideration by the 41st Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee. The Draft Procedure, accommodating comments from the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its 41st Meeting, is therefore submitted for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council during its 51st meeting in 2019.

II. OBSERVERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING

Based on the Guidelines on the document on “Status of Various Organizations and Private Agencies Participation in SEAFDEC Programs” approved by the SEAFDEC Council at its 32nd Meeting on 21-24 March 2000, Malaysia, the observers at the Council Meeting can be limited to:

- 1) The current donors,
- 2) The organizations that have a legal working relationship with SEAFDEC, and
- 3) ASEAN countries but not SEAFDEC Member Countries.

However, other inter-government organizations (IGOs) or Governments by the proposal(s) of the Member Country(s) with the concurrence of all the Council Directors can attend the Meeting.

III. INVITATION PROCEDURES

For invitation to be extended to other IGOs or non-member Governments, the procedures shall be as follows:

- 1) The Member Country(s) that wishes to invite other IGOs or non-member Governments to attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting shall propose to the SEAFDEC Secretariat at least 60 days prior to the Council Meeting, with clear statement on the rationale for attending in the Council Meeting.

- 2) The SEAFDEC Secretariat shall communicate and seek approval from the SEAFDEC Council:
 - i. The Secretariat shall send an official letter to all SEAFDEC Council Directors (with an e-copy c.c. to National Coordinators) on the proposal for other IGOs or non-member Governments to attend the Council Meeting, with a clear statement on the rationale for attending the Meeting, at least 45 days prior to the Council Meeting. The Council Directors would be requested to provide a response to the Secretariat by 15 days after the transmittal of the letter.
 - ii. The Council Directors of the respective countries shall inform the Secretariat of their decision through an official letter or e-mail by the designated date. For the Council Directors who do not provide a response to the Secretariat by the designated date, the Secretariat shall consider that such Council Directors have no objection to the request.
 - iii. The Secretariat shall keep a record of the decisions made by the Council Directors. The final decision shall be made by a consensus of the Council Directors that send their responses to the Secretariat by the designated date.
 - iv. The Secretariat shall send an official letter to all Council Directors to notify the final decision of the Council whether or not the proposed attendance has been unanimously approved; while the record of the decisions by individual Council Directors shall be kept within the Secretariat and not be disclosed.
- 3) The Secretariat shall communicate with the requested Member Country(s) on the result of the decision made by the Council. Upon the approval of the SEAFDEC Council, the Secretariat shall also send an official invitation letter to other IGOs or non-member Governments to attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting.
- 4) The approval of the Council for other IGOs or non-member Governments to attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting shall be valid only for its attendance in such a particular meeting for which the request was made.

IV. PARTICIPATION STATUS

Participation of other IGOs or non-member Governments shall be limited only in the “Open Sessions” as “Observers,” but do not have the right to vote or propose any resolutions. Observers shall also be allowed to deliver a statement during the agenda on “Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations and Non-member Governments.”

V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The SEAFDEC Council is requested to consider the draft “Procedures for Inviting Other Organizations and Non-member Governments to Attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting,” and approve the Procedures as is or for improvement taking into consideration the comments of the Council.

Considering that the Guidelines (2000) stated that “*other inter-government organizations (IGOs) or Governments by the proposal(s) of the Member Country(s) with the concurrence of all the Council Directors can attend the Meeting,*” the Council may also wish to consider whether SEAFDEC should also be allowed to propose the attendant of other IGOs or Governments to the Council Meeting.

PROCEDURES FOR ENDORSEMENT OF POLICY DOCUMENTS TO THE ASEAN MECHANISM

I. BACKGROUND

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism

In 1990s, the enhanced collaboration between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC in the promotion of sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia was considered as an important gateway for the effective implementation of fishery programs in the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism was therefore established in 1999 as a joint forum for annual planning and review of collaborative programs implemented by SEAFDEC. Supported by the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, the programs are envisioned to provide greater impacts on the sustainable development of fisheries in the region for the benefit of all.

As agreed upon during the past SEAFDEC and ASEAN meetings regarding the mechanism for the implementation of ASEAN-SEAFDEC joint collaborative programs (**Appendix 1**): “All proposed programs will be scrutinized at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Meeting. The programs are subsequently endorsed by higher bodies (ASEAN side: SOM-AMAF and AMAF; SEAFDEC side: Council Meeting).”

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

The 26th AMAF Meetings (in 2004) and the 37th SEAFDEC Council Meeting (in 2005) agreed on the need to strengthen the ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation and collaboration on sustainable fisheries development. As a follow-up to such a decision, the ASEAN and SEAFDEC established the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP), of which the Letter of Understanding on the ASSP was signed by the Secretary-Generals of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC during the 29th AMAF Meeting on 2 November 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Term of Reference, Mechanism and Scope of the ASSP appears as **Appendix 2**.

Under the ASSP arrangement, the ASEAN and SEAFDEC will continue to use the existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism to consult, deliberate and agree on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs/activities and policies, until such time when both parties mutually agree to replace or enhance or supplement the FCG mechanism.

II. ISSUES

During the establishment of the **FCG mechanism in 1999**, the FCG meetings mainly aimed to scrutinize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC joint collaborative programs to be subsequently endorsed by the ASEAN side and SEAFDEC side. Under the FCG mechanism, collaborative programs scrutinized and approved by the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM) would be endorsed by the FCG/ASSP Meeting for submission by the ASEAN to the ASWGFi and higher bodies; and by SEAFDEC to the SEAFDEC Council.

On the establishment of the **ASSP in 2007**, the Terms of Reference of the ASSP covers broader scopes, *e.g.* SEAFDEC to provide technical inputs and support to the ASEAN Member Countries in support of the ASEAN common/coordinated positions on international fisheries issues to be discussed at the international fora; SEAFDEC to implement mutually agreed ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs/activities as the executing agency of the programs for the ASEAN.

Since the establishment of ASSP and in addition to the endorsement of SEAFDEC programs/activities, a number of regional guidelines and policy documents developed by SEAFDEC were scrutinized by the FCG/ASSP Meetings, and subsequently endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council, and the ASWGFi and higher ASEAN bodies. These include:

- Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Toward 2020 (2011)

- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions on Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species to be Addressed at CITES-CoP16 (2013)
- Regional Fishing Vessels Records (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over (2013)
- Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (2015)
- Regional Policy Recommendations on Conservation and Management of Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture (2015)
- ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain (2015)
- Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products (2016)
- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on Inclusion of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) to the CITES Appendices at CoP17 (2016)
- Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (2016)
- Regional Guidelines on Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region (2016)
- ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries Concept (ACDS Concept) (2017)

At the 21st FCG/ASSP Meeting in 2018 (21FCG/ASSP), the mechanism of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaboration was reiterated, and the Meeting pointed out that policy documents submitted to the FCG/ASSP should be those that have already been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council. It was therefore suggested that **FCG/ASSP focal points** should be established in order that **matters that require urgent consideration** could be considered and endorsed by the FCG/ASSP *ad referendum*, prior to submission to the ASWGFi. In this connection, as requested by the 21FCG/ASSP, the ASEAN Secretariat had already sent out the letters to the AMSs requesting for nominations of their respective FCG/ASSP focal points; while SEAFDEC also sent a letter to Japan, requesting for nomination of its FCG/ASSP focal point. List of nominated focal points appears as **Appendix 3**.

III. PROCEDURES FOR ENDORSEMENT OF POLICY DOCUMENTS TO THE ASEAN MECHANISM

Noting the recommendations made by the 21FCG/ASSP, the Secretariat therefore delineate the procedures for future submission and endorsement of policy documents to the ASEAN mechanism as follows:

| Annual Meetings | Procedures | |
|------------------|---|--|
| | (final draft regional policy documents) | |
| FCG/ASSP Meeting | Reporting the progress on development of the regional policy documents | |
| | | |
| Council Meeting | Submission and seeking approval of the policy documents | |
| | For urgent matters¹ | For non-urgent matters² |
| | Submission <i>ad referendum</i> to FCG/ASSP focal points seeking the endorsement of policy documents for submission to ASWGFi | |
| ASWGFi Meeting | Endorsement by ASWGFi (at the meeting or <i>ad referendum</i>) | |
| FCG/ASSP Meeting | | Submission to annual FCG/ASSP Meeting seeking the endorsement of policy documents for submission to ASWGFi |

¹ Urgent matter such as common coordinated position for international fora

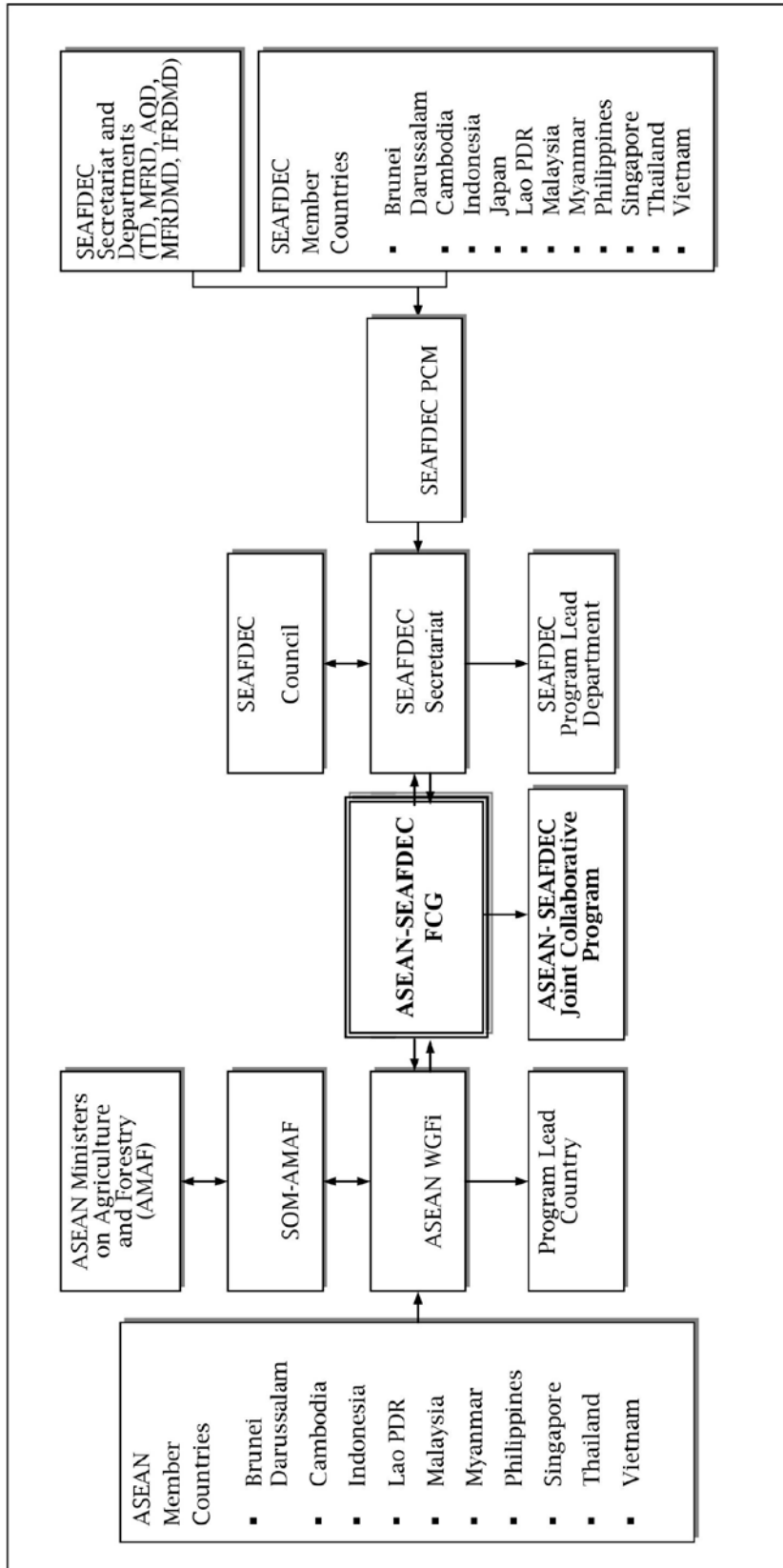
² Non-urgent matter such as regional policy guidelines/recommendations

| Annual Meetings | Procedures | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | | |
| ASWGFi Meeting | | Endorsement by ASWGFi |

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- The Council is requested to take note of the discussion during the 21st FCG/ASSP Meeting on submission of policy documents to the FCG/ASSP, and the establishment of the focal points for the FCG/ASSP mechanism, of which the list appears as **Appendix 3**.
- The Council is requested to consider the procedures for endorsement of policy documents to the ASEAN mechanism as presented by the Secretariat.
- The Council may wish to provide further directives to enhance the effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP mechanism in considering the regional policy documents under the SEAFDEC and ASEAN mechanism.

Mechanism for Implementation of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Joint Collaborative Programs



The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

Terms of Reference, Mechanism and Scope¹

The ASSP will provide the framework for ASEAN and SEAFDEC to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration in fisheries to achieve their common goals on sustainable fisheries development.

I. Terms of Reference

1. SEAFDEC, through the implementation of its appropriate technical programs in collaboration with ASEAN/SEAFDEC Member Countries, would assist ASEAN to clarify and develop common/coordinated positions on international fisheries issues to be discussed at the international fora.
2. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) would screen the fisheries issues and decide whether ASEAN common or coordinated position is needed, and whether it will require further coordination and policy consideration with other line agencies through submission to ASEAN higher level meetings, based on the level of integration needed.
3. SEAFDEC would provide technical inputs and support to ASEAN Member Countries prior and at relevant international meetings in support of ASEAN common positions so as to enable ASEAN member countries to coordinate their interventions on the target issues to safeguard ASEAN interest.
4. SEAFDEC, when appropriate and within SEAFDEC's capacity and capability, will implement mutually agreed ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs/activities as ASEAN's Executing Agency. This arrangement will provide for greater integration of ASEAN and SEAFDEC fisheries programs thereby avoid duplication and enable better utilisation of resources.
5. ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs shall be conducted based on the principles, rules, procedures and regulations of ASEAN and "the Agreement Establishing the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center" of SEAFDEC.
6. ASEAN and SEAFDEC will endeavor to develop and undertake regional fisheries programs/activities related to the Southeast Asian Region systematically and vigorously taking into consideration regional and national priorities.
7. SEAFDEC will undertake the technical responsibilities for the promotion, implementation, monitoring and coordination for designated ASEAN fisheries programs/activities in collaboration with SEAFDEC countries. SEAFDEC will, in consultation with ASEAN Secretariat and/or ASWGF_i, prepare the documents, when necessary, on ASEAN Fisheries Programs in response to ASEAN needs.
8. Before their implementation, SEAFDEC Secretariat will seek the approval of the SEAFDEC Council on ASEAN fisheries programs/projects that will be entrusted to SEAFDEC by ASEAN.

II. Mechanism

1. In the ASSP, ASEAN and SEAFDEC will continue to use the existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism to consult, deliberate and agree on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs/activities and policies, until such time when both parties mutually agree to replace or enhance /supplement the FCG mechanism.

¹ Source: Appendix 1 of the Letter of Understanding on ASEAN-Strategic Partnership (ASSP), signed on 2 November 2007



2. ASEAN will invite SEAFDEC representatives to meetings of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) and its subsidiary bodies, and other relevant ASEAN meetings (*e.g.* SOM-AMAF, AMAF, AEG-CITES, etc.). SEAFDEC will invite ASEAN Secretariat to the SEAFDEC Council of Directors Meeting, and other relevant SEAFDEC meetings.
3. The usage of the name, logo and/or official emblem of ASEAN and SEAFDEC on ASEAN-SEAFDEC publications or documents shall be by mutual agreement.

III. Scope

The areas for cooperation and collaboration under the ASSP listed below are not exhaustive and can be reviewed, revised or expanded from time to time when necessary by consensus between ASEAN and SEAFDEC.

1. ASEAN Vision for Fisheries: “To be a leader in Sustainable Tropical Fisheries for the People”.
2. ASEAN Roadmap for economic integration of the Fisheries Sector.
3. Increased participation and involvement of ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries in international fora to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests.
4. Common understanding and position in regional and global fisheries issues that have impact on fisheries development, fish trade, food safety, and the development/implementation of appropriate regional policies on these issues through an effective and timely mechanism.
5. Sustainable development in fisheries resource management, food safety, food security, and rural livelihood uplifting/improvement.
6. Cooperation in R&D and HRD in appropriate technology in the areas of capture fisheries, fisheries management, aquaculture and post-harvest of fish and fisheries products.

Focal Points for the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership

Brunei Darussalam

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Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung

Director

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SEAFDEC

Dr. Worawit Wanchana

Policy and Program Coordinator

SEAFDEC Secretariat

E-mail: worawit@seafdec.org

FUTURE OF REGIONAL FISHERIES POLICY NETWORK (RFPN) AFTER 2019

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1998: Forming the Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy

The SEAFDEC Council during its Thirtieth Meeting in 1998 endorsed the establishment of the Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) at the SEAFDEC Secretariat to initiate the works required for a SEAFDEC center-wide function. At that time, the WGRFP comprised high-caliber middle-level government officers seconded by the Member Countries, and specifically tasked to: give timely advice to the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC and Department Chiefs on relevant regional and global issues, and suggest appropriate actions to be taken, if necessary; prepare draft regional fisheries policies for the Southeast Asian region; and coordinate the implementation of regular and extra-budgetary funded regional programs with the relevant SEAFDEC Departments. List of the Members of WGRFP is shown in **Table 1**.

2007: Transforming WGRFP into the Regional Fisheries Policy Network

In 2006, adjustment was deemed necessary due to the current tight financial situation of SEAFDEC. Thus, the SEAFDEC Council during its 38th Meeting in 2006, endorsed the transformation of the WGRFP into the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) with members to be stationed at the SEAFDEC Secretariat subject to availability of funds, otherwise, appointment of virtual members to be based in their respective countries working through email network would be pursued. To ensure that the assignment of RFPN Members to be based at the Secretariat is maximized, the Japanese Trust Fund¹ Project and SEAFDEC-Sweden² Project agreed to support the RFPN Members coming from countries involved in their various projects starting in the year 2007. Term of reference of SEAFDEC RFPN is shown in **Appendix 1**.

After 2019?

Over the last two decades, the role of WGRFP/RFPN and the benefits gained by the Southeast Asian countries have been significantly observed not only in the effective and smooth implementation of SEAFDEC initiatives/program of activities, but also in terms of human resource development for their respective countries. Nevertheless, the RFPN Members to be nominated by the Gulf of Thailand countries after 2019 will be no longer supported by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project due to the project termination.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider and provide advice for the future arrangements of the RFPN Members after the year 2019 not only in terms of recommendations on financial support, but also recommendations for future possible readjustment of the RFPN Program if necessary.

¹ Currently supporting members for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

² Currently supporting members for Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Table 1 Members of WGRFP (1999-2006) stationed at SEAFDEC Secretariat

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Cambodia (3) | <i>Mr. Mao Sam Onn</i> (June 2002-June 2003) <i>Mr. Buoy Roitana</i> (July 2003-January 2005) <i>Mr. Suy Serywath</i> (February 2005-July 2007) |
| Indonesia (3) | <i>Mr. Saut Tampubolon</i> (May 2002-November 2002) <i>Mr. Bambang Edi Priono</i> (April 2003-October 2003) <i>Mr. Trian Yunanda</i> (May 2004-April 2006) |
| Malaysia (6) | <i>Mr. Abdul Hamid Yassin</i> (May 1999-April 2000) <i>Mr. Nik Abd. Wahab Bin Mat Diah</i> (May 2000-April 2001) <i>Ms. Nor Ainy Mahyuddin</i> (May 2001-April 2002) <i>Ms. Saadiah Bt. Ibrahim</i> (June 2002-June 2003) <i>Mr. Abd. Rahman Bin Abd. Wahab</i> (February 2004-January 2005) <i>Mr. Nazri Bin Ishak</i> (March 2005-March 2006) |
| Myanmar (5) | <i>Mr. Khin Ko Lay</i> (August 2000-July 2001) <i>Mr. Myint Pe</i> (October 2001-March 2003) <i>Mr. Aung Htay Oo</i> (April 2003-April 2004) <i>Mr. Than Oo Wai</i> (May 2004-April 2005) <i>Mr. Win Myint Maung</i> (June 2005-May 2006) |
| Philippines (3) | <i>Mr. Rafael V. Ramiscal</i> (September 1998-October 2000) <i>Mr. Severino L. Escobar, Jr.</i> (February 2001-June 2003) <i>Mr. Sammy A. Malvas</i> (September 2003-March 2005) |
| Thailand (4) | <i>Dr. Choomjet Karnjanakesorn</i> (December 1998-November 1999) <i>Dr. Mala Supongpan</i> (January 2001-May 2003) <i>Dr. Smith Thummachua</i> (March 2004-August 2005) <i>Mrs. Panawon Awaiwanont</i> (September 2005-February 2006) |
| Viet Nam (5) | <i>Mr. Phan Hong Dung</i> (March 1999-March 2000) <i>Mr. Nguyen Lam Anh</i> (May 2000-November 2001) <i>Mr. Vu Dzung Tien</i> (June 2002-June 2003) <i>Ms. Tran Thi Tuyet Lan</i> (July 2003-July 2004) <i>Mr. Nguyen Van Thuan</i> (October 2004-December 2005) |
| Virtual WGRFP Members (3) | <i>Mr. Shigeki Takaya</i> (Japan) <i>Mr. Tin Win</i> (Myanmar) <i>Dr. Renee Chou</i> (Singapore) |

Table 2 Members of RFPN (2007 to date) stationed at SEAFDEC Secretariat

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Cambodia (8) | <i>Mr. Leng Sy Vann</i> (August 2007-December 2007) <i>Mr. Horth Sita</i> (February 2011-July 2011) <i>Mr. Em Samy</i> (February 2012-June 2012) <i>Mr. Leng Samath</i> (July 2012-December 2013) <i>Ms. Chin Leakhena</i> (January 2014-December 2015) <i>Mr. Heng Samay</i> (January 2016-December 2016) <i>Mr. Thuch Panha</i> (February 2018-December 2018) <i>Mr. Kamsan Ngin</i> (January 2019-December 2019) |
| Indonesia (11) | <i>Mr. Diky Suganda</i> (August 2007-December 2007) <i>Mr. Awwaluddin</i> (September 2009-November 2010) <i>Dr. Ahmadi</i> (January 2011-December 2011) |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| | <p><i>Mr. Adi Wibowo</i> (January 2012-December 2012) <i>Ms. Hotmuida Purba</i> (January 2013-December 2013) <i>Ms. Indri Yani Zaini</i> (January 2014-December 2014) <i>Ms. Sevi Sawestri</i> (February 2015-December 2015) <i>Mr. Reynaldy Indra Syah Putra</i> (February 2016-December 2016) <i>Mr. Ifan Ariansyach</i> (February 2017-December 2017) <i>Mr. IBM Suastika Jaya</i> (January 2018-December 2018) <i>Mr. Agus Sapari</i> (February 2019-December 2019)</p> |
| Lao PDR (8) | <p><i>Mr. Akhane Phomsouvanh</i> (February 2011-December 2011) <i>Ms. Sisamouth Phengsokoun</i> (February 2012-December 2012) <i>Mr. Vankham Keophimphone</i> (January 2013-December 2013) <i>Mr. Chainuk Phakhounthong</i> (January 2014-December 2014) <i>Ms. Phongsavanh Sengsomphou</i> (January 2015-December 2016) <i>Mr. Kongkham Vonglorkham</i> (June 2017-December 2017) <i>Ms. Vanny Sengkapeo</i> (January 2018-December 2018) <i>Mr. Khambor Souliphone</i> (January 2019-December 2019)</p> |
| Malaysia (9) | <p><i>Mr. Arthur Besther Sujang</i> (August 2007-December 2007) <i>Mr. Yusri Yusof</i> (June 2009-December 2009) <i>Mr. Mohd Farid Bin Abdullah</i> (January 2010-May 2010) <i>Ms. Halimah Binti Mohamed</i> (October 2010-September 2011) <i>Ms. Keni Anak Ngiwol</i> (January 2012-December 2012) <i>Ms. Imelda Riti Anak Rantty</i> (January 2013-December 2013) <i>Ms. Hemalatha Raja Sekaran</i> (January 2014-December 2015) <i>Ms. Annie Nunis Billy</i> (March 2016-December 2016) <i>Mr. Ahmad Faisal Bin Mohamed Omar</i> (May 2017-December 2017)</p> |
| Myanmar (10) | <p><i>Mr. Nyunt Win</i> (June 2009-May 2010) <i>Dr. Aung Naing Oo</i> (July 2010-June 2011) <i>Mr. Aung Nyi Toe</i> (June 2011-December 2011) <i>Dr. Kyaw Kyaw</i> (January 2012-December 2013) <i>Dr. Myo Min Hliang</i> (February 2014-December 2014) <i>Dr. Than Than Lwin</i> (February 2015-December 2015) <i>Dr. Saw Mya Linn</i> (February 2016-December 2016) <i>Ms. Myat Khine Mar</i> (January 2017-December 2017) <i>Ms. Nant Kay Thwe Moe</i> (January 2018-December 2018) <i>Ms. Kay Khine Tint</i> (January 2019-December 2019)</p> |
| Philippines (6) | <p><i>Mr. Arsenio S. Bañares</i> (May 2006-December 2007) <i>Mr. Pierre Easter L. Velasco</i> (August 2010-June 2011) <i>Mr. Joeren S. Yleaña</i> (July 2011- December 2011) <i>Mr. Ronnie O. Romero</i> (July 2012-December 2012) <i>Dr. Ronaldo R. Libunao</i> (January 2013- June 2013) <i>Mr. Neil Kenneth P. Catibog</i> (July 2013-December 2013) <i>Mr. Efren V. Hilario</i> (January 2014-December 2014) <i>Ms. Marylene Mandreza</i> (January 2015-December 2015) <i>Mr. Marlon V. Alejandro</i> (January 2016-December 2016) <i>Mr. Napoleon Salvador J. Lamarca</i> (January 2017-December 2017) <i>Ms. Bernadette B. Soliven</i> (January 2018-December 2018) <i>Ms. Jennifer G. Viron</i> (February 2019-December 2019)</p> |
| Thailand (11) | <p><i>Dr. Chongkolnee Chamchang</i> (July 2007-December 2007) <i>Ms. Piyawan Hussadee</i> (June 2009-May 2010) <i>Ms. Nopparat Nasuchon</i> (January 2011-December 2011) <i>Ms. Issarapon Jithlang</i> (January 2012-December 2012) <i>Mr. Sarayoot Boonkumjad</i> (January 2013-December 2013)</p> |



| | |
|--------------|--|
| | <p><i>Ms. Nichaphat Dissayaphong</i> (May 2014-December 2014) <i>Ms. Chutima Pokhun</i> (January 2015-December 2015) <i>Ms. Natedow Wiseso</i> (January 2016-December 2016) <i>Mr. Thana Yenpoeng</i> (January 2017-December 2017) <i>Ms. Thumawadee jaiyen</i> (January 2018-December 2018) <i>Ms. Sumolmal Suwannapoom</i> (January 2019-December 2019)</p> |
| Viet Nam (9) | <p><i>Mr. Nguyen Van Thuan</i> (June 2007-December 2007) <i>Ms. Ngo Thu Thanh Huong</i> (April 2011-July 2011) <i>Ms. Le Hong Lien</i> (February 2012-December 2012) <i>Mr. Tran Van Hao</i> (January 2013-December 2013) <i>Mr. Nguyen The Hoang</i> (February 2014-December 2014) <i>Mr. Nguyen Van Phuc</i> (January 2015-December 2015) <i>Ms. Nguyen Huong Tra</i> (January 2016-December 2016) <i>Mr. Nguyen Tuan Uyen</i> (January 2017-December 2017) <i>Ms. Vu Thi Phuong Thanh</i> (February 2019-December 2019)</p> |

SEAFDEC REGIONAL FISHERIES POLICY NETWORK

Terms of Reference

The Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) is made up of officers from Member Countries that are appointed by the respective country to be stationed at the Secretariat, subject to the availability of funds. The inputs by RFPN will be used to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation. They will provide important contributions to events and activities under SEAFDEC program including responses to climate change and adaptation and other SEAFDEC activities and consultations as decided from time to time and they will be active in the process to:

- (a) Identify issues related to fisheries, raised at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, which may have potential impacts to fisheries in the region;
- (b) Identify studies and activities that should be conducted to compile information on the identified issues as a basis for developing policy recommendations and strengthening regional and sub-regional coordination;
- (c) Initiate and promote the formulation of regional fisheries policies and policy recommendations, including the preparation and finalization of the required working/position or background papers;
- (d) Promote in-country (for Member Countries) or in-department (for SEAFDEC Departments) coordination to compile relevant information and data as inputs to conduct studies, on-site training consultations and other activities;
- (e) Support the development of strategies to promote closer policy dialogues and regional and sub-regional cooperation among the Member Countries and SEAFDEC; and
- (f) Follow-up on the implementation of policies for ASEAN and the ASEAN region on fisheries, aquatic environment and climate change, international convention and agreements in the Member Countries.

**PLAN OF OPERATION AND PROGRAM OF WORK:
MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (MFRD) PROGRAMMES**

I. INTRODUCTION

At the 39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2007, the Council approved the proposal and endorsed the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), Singapore (PHTC/AVA) to be a Collaborating Centre of SEAFDEC to undertake the activities of the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) under the SEAFDEC regional programmes including those supported by the Japanese Trust Fund.

A new statutory board Singapore Food Agency (SFA) will be formed on 1st April 2019 from the merger of Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) and part of 2 other statutory boards. This re-organisation will bring together related functions and streamline processes to provide a more holistic oversight of Singapore's food safety, food security and all other relevant food-related matters. SFA will continue to uphold Singapore's commitment to implement the MFRD programmes.

SFA's Marine Aquaculture Centre (MAC), will replace PHTC as the Collaborating Centre to implement the MFRD programmes.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

The purpose of the MFRD Programmes is to enhance the development of fisheries post-harvest technology in the region according to resources available at the MAC.

The MFRD Programmes and activities cover research and development in fisheries post-harvest technology with focus on sustainable development and food security, including:

- a. Optimizing utilization of available fisheries products;
- b. Development of value-added fisheries products from under-utilized resources;
- c. Seafood safety such as the monitoring of chemical contaminants such as heavy metals, antibiotic and pesticide residues, marine biotoxins;
- d. Seafood quality assurance, such as handling, quality preservation, application of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to fish processing establishment in the region; and
- e. Traceability systems for aquaculture products;

The results of the activities will be transferred and disseminated to the region through workshops, training programs, publications, etc.

RULES FOR PAPERLESS SEAFDEC MEETINGS

During the 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council convened on 18-22 March 2019 in Surabaya, Indonesia, the SEAFDEC Council agreed that future SEAFDEC meetings should be paperless (*i.e.* replacing hard copies of documents with electronic formats of the working documents to be presented and shared by meeting participants, or participants can download the documents from the SEAFDEC website and print if necessary), unless the SEAFDEC Secretariat is requested to provide some participants with hard copies of the working documents prior to the meetings.

The Rules for Paperless SEAFDEC Meetings shall apply to SEAFDEC annual meetings, as well as technical consultations, meetings, and workshops as appropriate and practical. The following rules shall therefore govern the implementation of Paperless SEAFDEC Meetings.

1. For the SEAFDEC annual meetings, *e.g.* SEAFDEC Council Meeting, SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting
 - 1.1 Meeting documents shall be made available in electronic format through the SEAFDEC website at least one month prior to the meetings. The URL shall be provided to the participants to facilitate access and downloading of the documents;
 - 1.2 Participants are encouraged to download the working documents from the SEAFDEC website;
 - 1.3 One set of hardcopy of documents shall be provided to the Head Delegate of each Member Country attending in the meetings;
 - 1.4 For other participants who would like to obtain hard copies of the documents, such request shall be made to the SEAFDEC Secretariat at least two weeks prior to the meetings; and
 - 1.5 Hard copies of financial documents for the SEAFDEC Council Meetings shall be provided only to the Head Delegates attending the SEAFDEC Council Meetings.
2. For other technical consultations, meetings and workshops
 - 2.1 The SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments shall determine whether hard copies of working documents would be made available for particular SEAFDEC events;
 - 2.2 Working documents shall be made available in electronic format through the SEAFDEC website and the URL shall be provided to the participants to facilitate access and downloading of the documents; and
 - 2.3 Participants are encouraged to download the working documents from the SEAFDEC website.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
ABRIDGED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

| | In US\$ | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| REVENUES | | |
| Contributions from :- | | |
| Member governments | 9,600,319 | 9,536,811 |
| Other sources | 1,092,650 | 1,136,807 |
| Other income | 418,849 | 537,833 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 11,111,818 | 11,211,451 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Operating and Capital Expenditures | | |
| Research | 3,060,955 | 3,310,471 |
| Training | 1,187,743 | 661,064 |
| Information | 598,738 | 482,023 |
| Collaborative | 160,716 | 151,637 |
| Others | 504,695 | 440,755 |
| Administrative | 4,941,639 | 4,562,088 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 10,454,486 | 9,608,038 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year | 657,332 | 1,603,413 |
| FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year | 10,002,772 (1) | 7,704,897 |
| FUND ADJUSTMENT | 3,501 | 37,455 |
| FUND BALANCE, End of year | 10,663,605 | 9,345,765 (1) |
| REPRESENTED BY : | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 11,518,615 | 9,084,651 |
| Other receivables | 234,229 | 709,930 |
| Advance and deposits | 52,579 | 42,932 |
| Supplies inventory | 24,649 | 53,639 |
| Other current assets | 1,840 | 1,210 |
| Fuel oil for vessels | 222,266 | 97,782 |
| Prepayments | 29,998 | 15,931 |
| Total Current assets | 12,084,176 | 10,006,075 |
| Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance | 169,686 | 143,102 |
| Termination indemnity fund | 2,333,761 | 1,992,727 |
| Long-term investments | 271,805 | 269,735 |
| Other noncurrent assets | 266,056 | 114,399 |
| Total Assets | 15,125,484 | 12,526,038 |
| Less: Liabilities | | |
| Accrued payable | 886,439 | 994,063 |
| Contribution received in advance | 982,920 | 86,412 |
| Fund held in trust | 258,759 | 107,071 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 2,128,118 | 1,187,546 |
| Provision for staff termination indemnity | 2,333,761 | 1,992,727 |
| Total Liabilities | 4,461,879 | 3,180,273 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 10,663,605 | 9,345,765 |

(1)The difference of US\$ 657,007 (US\$ 10,002,772 – US\$ 9,345,765) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
THE SECRETARIAT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

| | In US\$ | |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| REVENUES | | |
| Contributions from :- | | |
| Member governments | 499,000 | 494,000 |
| Other sources | 94,485 | 97,544 |
| Other income | (39,226) | (10,329) |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 554,259 | 581,215 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Operating and Capital Expenditures | | |
| Training | 1,609 | 87 |
| Information | 95,334 | 58,672 |
| Collaborative | 158,695 | 142,463 |
| Others | - | 8,776 |
| Administrative | 276,351 | 211,133 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 531,989 | 421,131 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year | 22,270 | 160,084 |
| FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year | 924,815 (1) | 657,023 |
| FUND ADJUSTMENT | - | 26,000 |
| FUND BALANCE, End of year | 947,085 | 843,107 (1) |
| REPRESENTED BY : | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 822,994 | 640,227 |
| Other receivables | 125,773 | 210,115 |
| Advance and deposits | 497 | 1,303 |
| Prepayments | 184 | 808 |
| Total Current assets | 949,448 | 852,453 |
| Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance | 169,686 | 143,102 |
| Total Assets | 1,119,134 | 995,555 |
| Less: Liabilities | | |
| Accrued payable | 172,049 | 150,448 |
| Contribution received in advance | - | 2,000 |
| Total Liabilities | 172,049 | 152,448 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 947,085 | 843,107 |

(1)The difference of US\$ 81,708 (US\$ 924,815 – US\$ 843,107) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

| | In US\$ | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| REVENUES | | |
| Contributions from :- | | |
| Member governments | 3,012,747 | 3,251,282 |
| Other sources | 699,519 | 389,761 |
| Other income | (59,413) | 72,219 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 3,652,853 | 3,713,262 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Operating and Capital Expenditures | | |
| Research | 252,817 | 278,142 |
| Training | 1,072,228 | 564,133 |
| Information | 184,884 | 206,871 |
| Collaborative | 2,021 | 9,174 |
| Others | 504,695 | 431,979 |
| Administrative | 1,424,840 | 1,637,612 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 3,441,485 | 3,127,911 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year | 211,368 | 585,351 |
| FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year | 6,628,592 (1) | 5,457,597 |
| FUND ADJUSTMENT | - | - |
| FUND BALANCE, End of year | 6,839,960 | 6,042,948 (1) |
| REPRESENTED BY : | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 7,619,016 | 5,964,725 |
| Other receivables | 40,971 | 93,638 |
| Advance and deposits | 7,682 | 13,263 |
| Fuel oil for vessels | 222,266 | 97,782 |
| Prepayments | 29,814 | 15,123 |
| Total Current assets | 7,919,749 | 6,184,531 |
| Termination indemnity fund | 2,333,761 | 1,992,727 |
| Total Assets | 10,253,510 | 8,177,258 |
| Less: Liabilities | | |
| Accrued payable | 96,869 | 57,171 |
| Contribution received in advance | 982,920 | 84,412 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 1,079,789 | 141,583 |
| Provision for staff termination indemnity | 2,333,761 | 1,992,727 |
| Total Liabilities | 3,413,550 | 2,134,310 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 6,839,960 | 6,042,948 |

(1)The difference of US\$ 585,644 (US\$ 6,628,592 – US\$ 6,042,948) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

| | In US\$ | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| REVENUES | | |
| Contributions from :- | | |
| Member governments | 4,406,169 | 4,424,779 |
| Other sources | 298,646 | 649,502 |
| Other income | 517,488 | 475,943 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 5,222,303 | 5,550,224 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Operating and Capital Expenditures | | |
| Research | 2,668,821 | 2,860,289 |
| Training | 113,906 | 96,844 |
| Information | 318,520 | 216,480 |
| Administrative | 1,697,362 | 1,518,633 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 4,798,609 | 4,692,246 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year | 423,694 | 857,978 |
| FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year | 2,449,365 (1) | 1,590,277 |
| FUND ADJUSTMENT | 3,501 | 11,455 |
| FUND BALANCE, End of year | 2,876,560 | 2,459,710 (1) |
| REPRESENTED BY : | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3,076,605 | 2,479,699 |
| Other receivables | 67,485 | 406,177 |
| Advance and deposits | 44,400 | 28,366 |
| Supplies inventory | 24,649 | 53,639 |
| Other current assets | 1,840 | 1,210 |
| Total Current assets | 3,214,979 | 2,969,091 |
| Long-term investments | 271,805 | 269,735 |
| Other noncurrent assets | 266,056 | 114,399 |
| Total Assets | 3,752,840 | 3,353,225 |
| Less: Liabilities | | |
| Accrued payable | 617,521 | 786,444 |
| Fund held in trust | 258,759 | 107,071 |
| Total Liabilities | 876,280 | 893,515 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 2,876,560 | 2,459,710 |

(1)The difference of US\$ 10,345 (US\$ 2,449,365 – US\$ 2,459,710) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

| | In US\$ | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| REVENUES | | |
| Contributions from :- | | |
| Member governments | 804,771 | 660,435 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 804,771 | 660,435 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Operating and Capital Expenditures | | |
| Administrative | 804,771 | 660,435 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 804,771 | 660,435 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year | - | - |
| FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year | - | - |
| FUND ADJUSTMENT | - | - |
| FUND BALANCE, End of year | - | - |
| REPRESENTED BY : | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | - | - |
| Advance and deposits | - | - |
| Total Current assets | - | - |
| Total Assets | - | - |
| Less: Liabilities | | |
| Accrued payable | - | - |
| Total Liabilities | - | - |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | - | - |

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
INLAND FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

| | In US\$ | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| REVENUES | | |
| Contributions from :- | | |
| Member governments | 877,632 | 706,315 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 877,632 | 706,315 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Operating and Capital Expenditures | | |
| Research | 139,317 | 172,040 |
| Administrative | 738,315 | 534,275 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 877,632 | 706,315 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year | - | - |
| FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year | - | - |
| FUND ADJUSTMENT | - | - |
| FUND BALANCE, End of year | - | - |
| REPRESENTED BY : | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | - | - |
| Other receivables | - | - |
| Total Current assets | - | - |
| Total Assets | - | - |
| Less: Liabilities | | |
| Accrued payable | - | - |
| Total Liabilities | - | - |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | - | - |

UN-AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017

| | In US\$ | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2018 (Un-audited) | 2017 (Audited) |
| ACCUMULATED FUND | | |
| As at December 31 | <u>12,157,051</u> | <u>10,663,605</u> |
| REPRESENTED BY : | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash in hand and at banks | 13,047,451 | 11,518,615 |
| Other receivables and Advances | 287,431 | 286,808 |
| Supplies inventory | 25,301 | 26,489 |
| Fuel for vessels | 156,244 | 222,266 |
| Prepayments | 32,597 | 29,998 |
| Total Current assets | <u>13,549,024</u> | <u>12,084,176</u> |
| Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance | 238,680 | 169,686 |
| Termination indemnity fund | 2,388,245 | 2,333,761 |
| Other assets | 524,293 | 266,056 |
| Total Other assets | <u>3,151,217</u> | <u>3,041,308</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>16,700,242</u> | <u>15,125,484</u> |
| <u>Less</u> : Liabilities | | |
| Accrued payable | 546,953 | 886,439 |
| Contribution received in advance | 1,352,868 | 982,920 |
| Funds held in trust | 255,125 | 258,759 |
| Provision for staff termination indemnity | 2,388,245 | 2,333,761 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>4,543,191</u> | <u>4,461,879</u> |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | <u>12,157,051</u> | <u>10,663,605</u> |

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017**

| | In US\$ | | | Total | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Operating Fund | Fellowship | | 2018 | 2017 | |
| | Host Department | MRC | Fund | Others Fund | (Un-audited) | (Audited) |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | | | | | | |
| Contributions from :- | | | | | | |
| Government of Brunei Darussalam | | 7,000 | | | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Government of Cambodia | | 12,000 | | | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Government of Indonesia | 989,459 | 52,000 | | | 1,041,459 | 929,632 |
| Government of Japan | | 280,000 | | | 280,000 | 280,000 |
| Government of Lao PDR | | 6,500 | | | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| Government of Malaysia | 800,868 | 21,500 | | | 822,368 | 826,271 |
| Government of Myanmar | | 22,500 | | | 22,500 | 22,500 |
| Government of Philippines | 4,754,660 | 25,000 | | | 4,779,660 | 4,431,169 |
| Government of Singapore | | 13,500 | | | 13,500 | 13,500 |
| Government of Thailand | 3,142,336 | 33,000 | 24,012 | | 3,199,348 | 3,045,747 |
| Government of Viet Nam | | 26,000 | | | 26,000 | 26,000 |
| Sub-total | 9,687,323 | 499,000 | 24,012 | | 10,210,335 | 9,536,811 |
| Other sources/grants | | | | 1,720,310 | 1,720,310 | 1,092,650 |
| Other income | 509,169 | -2,334 | 1,239 | 113,961 | 622,035 | 418,849 |
| TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS | 10,196,492 | 496,666 | 25,251 | 1,834,271 | 12,552,680 | 11,111,818 |

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017**

| | In US\$ | | | | Total | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Operating Fund | | Fellowship | Others | 2018 | 2017 |
| | Host Department | MRC | Fund | Fund | (Un-audited) | (Audited) |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | |
| Operating Expenditures | | | | | | |
| Program of Activities : | | | | | | |
| Research | 3,187,532 | | | 213,122 | 3,400,654 | 3,060,955 |
| Training | 921,423 | 3,331 | 9,180 | 149,050 | 1,082,984 | 1,187,743 |
| Information | 452,372 | 63,294 | | 111,284 | 626,950 | 598,738 |
| Collaborative | 5,374 | 122,974 | | | 128,348 | 160,716 |
| Others | | 17,175 | | 615,172 | 632,347 | 504,695 |
| | <u>4,566,701</u> | <u>206,774</u> | <u>9,180</u> | <u>1,088,628</u> | <u>5,871,283</u> | <u>5,512,847</u> |
| Administrative & Capital expenditures | 4,439,399 | 169,332 | | 483,362 | 5,092,093 | 4,941,639 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | <u>9,006,100</u> | <u>376,106</u> | <u>9,180</u> | <u>1,571,990</u> | <u>10,963,376</u> | <u>10,454,486</u> |
| SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR | <u>1,190,392</u> | <u>120,560</u> | <u>16,071</u> | <u>262,281</u> | <u>1,589,304</u> | <u>657,332</u> |

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUND BALANCES
DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017**

In US\$

| | Balance as at January 1, 2018 | Adjustment of fund | Surplus (Deficit) | Balance December 31, 2018 (Un-audited) | Balance as at December 31, 2017 (Audited) |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Operating fund | 8,254,601 | -11,433 | 1,310,952 | 9,554,120 | 8,338,531 |
| Fellowship fund | 244,868 | | 16,071 | 260,939 | 242,978 |
| Other funds | 2,079,711 | | 262,281 | 2,341,992 | 2,082,096 |
| Net | 10,579,180 (1) | -11,433 | 1,589,304 | 12,157,051 | 10,663,605 (1) |

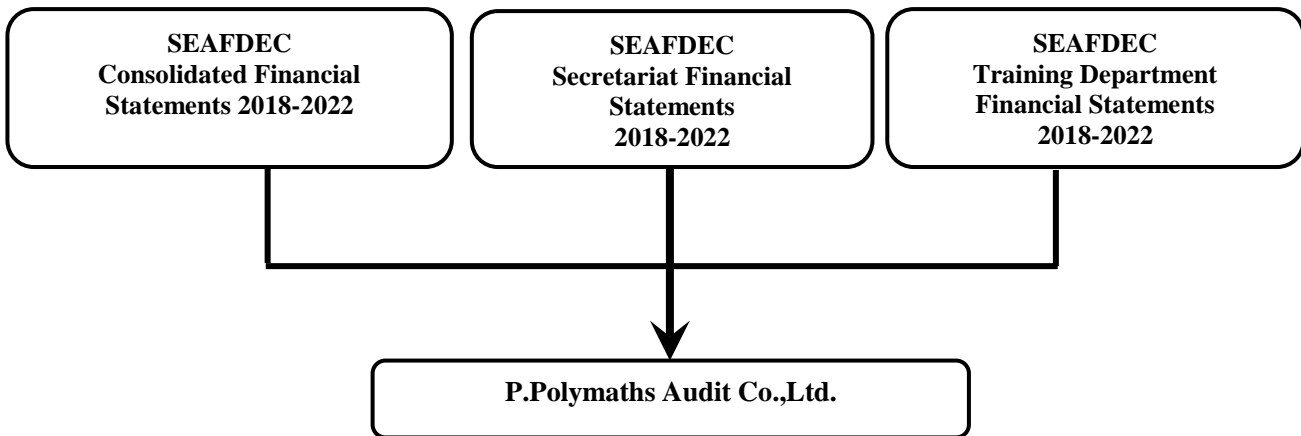
(1) The difference of US\$ 84,425 (US\$10,579,180 - US\$10,663,605) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

Annex 36

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES
AS ANNUAL MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC) IN 2015 -2019 (IN US\$)**

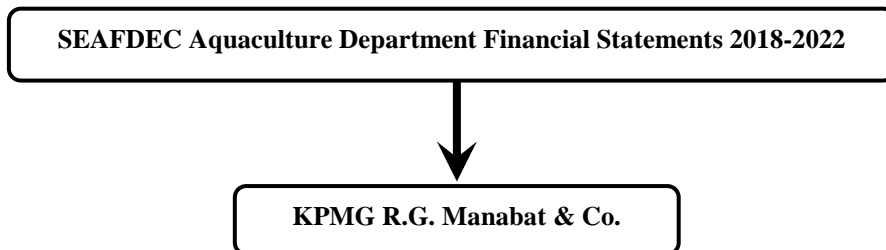
| Countries | Actual received in 2015 | Actual received in 2016 | Actual received in 2017 | Amount received in 2018 | Amount received in 2019 as at 8 Feb.2019 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Brunei Darussalam | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | |
| Cambodia | 11,000 | 11,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | |
| Indonesia | 52,000 | 52,000 | 52,000 | 52,000 | |
| Japan | 280,000 | 280,000 | 280,000 | 280,000 | 280,000 |
| Lao PDR | 5,000 | 5,000 | 6,500 | 6,500 | |
| Malaysia | 21,000 | 21,000 | 21,500 | 21,500 | |
| Myanmar | 21,000 | 21,000 | 22,500 | 22,500 | |
| Philippines | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | |
| Singapore | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,500 | 13,500 | 13,500 |
| Thailand | 33,000 | 33,000 | 33,000 | 33,000 | 33,000 |
| Viet Nam | 26,000 | 26,000 | 26,000 | 26,000 | |
| Total | 494,000 | 494,000 | 499,000 | 499,000 | 326,500 |

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



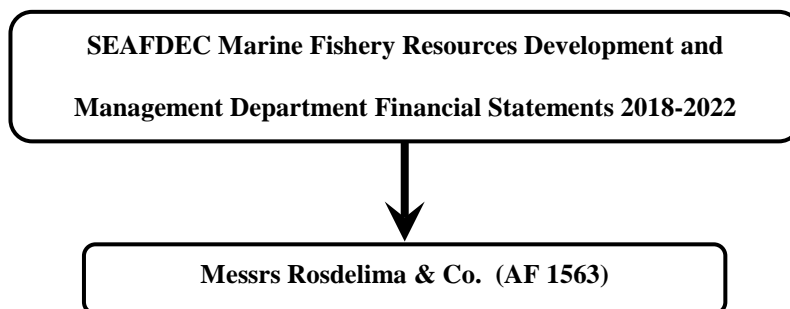
Auditor's name : Mr. Pongsakorn Suwansaksin
Address : 33/6 Moo 14 Bangna-Trad Road,
Bangkaew Sub-District, Bangplee
Samuth Prakarn 10540, Thailand
Telephone : (662) 754-0316
Mobile : (661) 9499-4994
Email : Pong.audit57@gmail.com

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



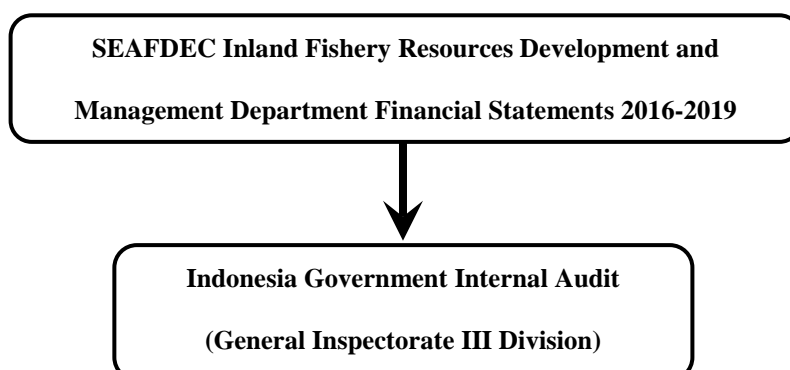
Auditor's name : Mr. Orvil Deroja
Address : The KPMG Center, 9/F,
6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City,
Philippines, 1226
Telephone : (632) 885-7000
Fax : (632) 894-1985
Email : oderoja@kpmg.com

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



Auditor's name : Mrs. Rosdelima Binti Mohd Ali Jaafar
Address : No.68-3, Suite 1, Blok H
Platinum Walk Danau Kota Jalan Langkawi
53300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Telephone : (603) 4143-2725

CONTACT PERSON AND INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION



Auditor's name : Mr. Ir. Jayen C. Purewanto, MM
Address : Gd. Mina Bahari III Lt. 4-6
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
JI Medan Merdeka Timur No.16
Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia

PROPOSED BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE CENTER FOR THE YEAR 2019

Table 1: Estimated Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other sources (in US Dollars) in fiscal Year 2019

| Sources | Secretariat | Training Department | Marine Fisheries Research Department | Aquaculture Department | Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department | Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department | Total | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | | In US\$ | % |
| Brunei Darussalam | 7,000 | | | | | | 7,000 | 0.04 |
| Cambodia | 12,000 | | | | | | 12,000 | 0.07 |
| Indonesia | 52,000 | | | | | 574,016 ^{h/} | 626,016 | 3.57 |
| Japan | 280,000 | | | | | | 280,000 | 1.59 |
| Lao PDR | 6,500 | | | | | | 6,500 | 0.04 |
| Malaysia | 21,500 | | | | 2,124,296 ^{g/} | | 2,145,796 | 12.22 |
| Myanmar | 22,500 | | | | | | 22,500 | 0.13 |
| Philippines | 25,000 | | | 5,507,711 ^{d/} | | | 5,532,711 | 31.52 |
| Singapore | 13,500 | | 0 ^{e/} | | | | 13,500 | 0.08 |
| Thailand | 33,000 | 3,216,400 ^{d/} | | | | | 3,249,400 | 18.51 |
| Viet Nam | 27,000 | | | | | | 27,000 | 0.15 |
| Sub-total | 500,000 | 3,216,400 | 0 | 5,507,711 | 2,124,296 | 574,016 | 11,922,423 | 67.92 |
| Others | 2,678,817 ^{b/} | 2,164,200 ^{c/} | | 787,041 ^{i/} | | | 5,630,058 | 32.08 |
| Total | 3,178,817 ^{a/} | 5,380,600 | 0 | 6,294,752 | 2,124,296 | 574,016 | 17,552,481 | 100% |

^{a/} Includes Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$ 500,000 (See Annex 1)

^{b/} Includes extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 1,550,357(Excluding MRC=US\$ 280,000), Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) = US\$ 279,960 and Sweden Fund = US\$ 848,500 (See Annex 1)

^{c/} Includes extra-budgetary sources from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 1,815,200 and Others =US\$ 349,000 (See Annex 2)

^{d/} Contributions in cash from Thailand (see Annex 2)

^{e/} No contribution from Singapore (see Annex 3)

^{f/} Contributions in cash from Philippines (See Annex 4)

^{g/} Contributions in kind from Malaysia (See Annex 5)

^{h/} Contributions in kind from Indonesia (See Annex 6)

^{i/} Includes contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts

Table 2: Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2019 (In US\$)

| Category | SEC ^{1/} | TD ^{2/} | MFRD ^{3/} | AQD ^{4/} | MFRDMD ^{5/} | IFRDMD ^{6/} | Total | % |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| I Program of Activities | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Research Programs | | 408,500 | | 2,954,546 | | 13,937 | 3,376,983 | 19.24 |
| 1.2 Training Programs | 5,000 | 1,466,000 | | 595,713 | | | 2,066,713 | 11.78 |
| 1.3 Information Programs | 71,000 | 38,000 | | 815,787 | | | 924,787 | 5.27 |
| 1.4 Collaborative Programs | 150,000 ^{7/} | 60,600 | | | | | 210,600 | 1.20 |
| 1.5 Other Programs | 2,756,817 ^{8/} | 2,164,200 ^{9/} | | 495,907 ^{10/} | | | 5,416,924 | 30.86 |
| Sub-total | 2,982,817 | 4,137,300 | 0 | 4,861,953 | 0 | 13,937 | 11,996,007 | 68.35 |
| II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Operating Expenditures | 188,500 | 1,243,300 | | 1,255,357 | | | 2,687,157 | 15.31 |
| 2.2 Capital Expenditures | 7,500 | | | 177,442 | | | 184,942 | 1.05 |
| 2.3 In-kind Expenditures | 196,000 | 1,243,300 | | 1,432,799 | 2,124,296 | - | 2,872,099 | 16.36 |
| | | | | | | 560,079 | 2,684,375 | 15.29 |
| Sub-total | 196,000 | 1,243,300 | 0 | 1,432,799 | 2,124,296 | 560,079 | 5,556,474 | 31.65 |
| TOTAL | 3,178,817 | 5,380,600 | 0 | 6,294,752 | 2,124,296 | 574,016 | 17,552,481 | 100% |

- Remarks:**
- ^{1/} Secretariat
 - ^{2/} Training Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and others expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - ^{3/} Marine Fisheries Research Department
 - ^{4/} Aquaculture Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - ^{5/} Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
 - ^{6/} Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
 - ^{7/} Includes operation cost, maintenance, insurance, and expenses of vessel periodic maintenance of the M.V.SEAFFDEC 2
 - ^{8/} Includes program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 1,550,357 Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund = US\$ 279,960, Sweden Fund = US\$ 848,500 and Other Programs from MRC Fund = US\$ 78,000
 - ^{9/} Includes program expenses from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 1,815,200 and Others = US\$ 349,000
 - ^{10/} Includes program expenses from non-member governments, international / regional/national organizations and other agencies.

Table 3: Expected Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other sources (in US Dollars) in fiscal Year 2020

| Sources | Secretariat | Training Department | Marine Fisheries Research Department | Aquaculture Department | Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department | Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department | Total | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|-------------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | In US\$ | % |
| Brunei Darussalam | 7,000 | | | | | | 7,000 | 0.04 |
| Cambodia | 12,000 | | | | | | 12,000 | 0.07 |
| Indonesia | 52,000 | | | | | 631,417 ^{h/} | 683,417 | 4.18 |
| Japan | 280,000 | | | | | | 280,000 | 1.71 |
| Lao PDR | 6,500 | | | | | | 6,500 | 0.04 |
| Malaysia | 21,500 | | | | 2,188,025 ^{g/} | | 2,209,525 | 13.53 |
| Myanmar | 22,500 | | | | | | 22,500 | 0.14 |
| Philippines | 25,000 | | | 5,515,405 ^{f/} | | | 5,540,405 | 33.92 |
| Singapore | 13,500 | | 0 ^{e/} | | | | 13,500 | 0.08 |
| Thailand | 33,000 | 2,991,400 ^{d/} | | | | | 3,024,400 | 18.51 |
| Viet Nam | 27,000 | | | | | | 27,000 | 0.17 |
| Sub-total | 500,000 | 2,991,400 | 0 | 5,515,405 | 2,188,025 | 631,417 | 11,826,247 | 72.39 |
| Others | 1,550,357 ^{b/} | 2,092,300 ^{c/} | | 867,596 ^{i/} | | | 4,510,253 | 27.61 |
| Total | 2,050,357 ^{a/} | 5,083,700 | 0 | 6,383,001 | 2,188,025 | 631,417 | 16,336,500 | 100% |

a/ Includes Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$ 500,000

b/ Includes extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 1,550,357 (Excluding MRC=US\$ 280,000)

c/ Includes extra-budgetary sources from UNEP/GEF=US\$ 2,092,300

d/ Contributions in cash from Thailand

e/ No contribution from Singapore

f/ Contributions in cash from Philippines

g/ Contributions in kind from Malaysia

h/ Contributions in kind from Indonesia

i/ Includes contributions from non-member governments, international/regional/national organizations and other receipts.

Table 4: Proposed Expenditures of the Center for 2020 (In US\$)

| Category | SEC ^{1/} | TD ^{2/} | MFRD ^{3/} | AQD ^{4/} | MFRDMD ^{5/} | IFRDMD ^{6/} | Total | % |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| I Program of Activities | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Research Programs | | 342,300 | | 3,126,638 | | 15,331 | 3,484,269 | 21.33 |
| 1.2 Training Programs | 5,000 | 1,435,100 | | 605,821 | | | 2,045,921 | 12.52 |
| 1.3 Information Programs | 71,000 | 38,000 | | 846,137 | | | 955,137 | 5.85 |
| 1.4 Collaborative Programs | 150,000 ^{7/} | 60,600 | | | | | 210,600 | 1.29 |
| 1.5 Other Programs | 1,628,357 ^{8/} | 2,092,300 ^{9/} | | 341,181 ^{10/} | | | 4,061,838 | 24.86 |
| Sub-total | 1,854,357 | 3,968,300 | 0 | 4,919,777 | 0 | 15,331 | 10,757,765 | 65.85 |
| II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Operating Expenditures | 188,500 | 1,115,400 | | 1,283,111 | | | 2,587,011 | 15.84 |
| 2.2 Capital Expenditures | 7,500 | | | 180,113 | | | 187,613 | 1.15 |
| 2.3 In-kind Expenditures | 196,000 | 1,115,400 | | 1,463,224 | | | 2,774,624 | 16.99 |
| Sub-total | 196,000 | 1,115,400 | 0 | 1,463,224 | 2,188,025 | 616,086 | 5,578,735 | 34.15 |
| TOTAL | 2,050,357 | 5,083,700 | 0 | 6,383,001 | 2,188,025 | 631,417 | 16,336,500 | 100% |

Remarks : 1/ Secretariat

2/ Training Department : The Program of Activities already includes administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.

3/ Marine Fisheries Research Department

4/ Aquaculture Department : The Program of Activities already includes administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.

5/ Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

6/ Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

7/ Includes operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2

8/ Includes program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 1,550,357 and Other Programs from MRC Fund = US\$ 78,000

9/ Includes program expenses from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 2,092,300

10/ Includes program expenses from non-member governments, international / regional/national organizations and other agencies.

PRESS STATEMENT

At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was convened in Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia, from 18 to 22 March 2019, hosted by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia.

In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and delegations from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, and collaborating organizations. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 18 March and presided over by the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, *Ms. Susi Pudjiastuti* who was represented by the Vice Governor of East Java Province, Indonesia, *Dr. Emil Elestianto Dardak*. The Meeting unanimously elected the Alternate Council Director for Indonesia, *Prof. Sjarief Widjaja* on behalf *Mr. Nilanto Perbowo* as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2019-2020, succeeding, *H.E. Eng Cheasan*, SEAFDEC Council Director for Cambodia who served as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the year 2018-2019.

While taking note of the progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2018, the Council approved the proposed program of activities to be undertaken in 2019. The Council then discussed the region's priority issues related to combating IUU fishing that include the progress of implementation of the "ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain," the use of "Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 meters in Length and Over," as well as the progress on the promotion of the electronic "ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme" for marine capture fisheries. The Council also provided recommendations toward the implementation of the "Regional Cooperation for Supporting the Implementation of Port State Measures in the ASEAN Region," and the "Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity."

On the issues related to regional cooperation to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region, the Council provided directives for SEAFDEC toward the implementation of the "Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region" and noted the the extensive works undertaken by SEAFDEC on stock assessment and risk assessment of neritic tuna species with a view to serve as basis for sustainable utilization of neritic tuna resources. The Council also adopted the "Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia."

Furthermore, the Council noted the progress made by SEAFDEC in the development of the "Regional Technical Guidelines and Mechanism for Early Warning System for Aquatic Diseases" and also adopted the "Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood" for further submission and endorsement to the ASEAN mechanism. On CITES-related issues, the Council endorsed the "Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP18."

The Council also approved the "SEAFDEC Gender Strategy" for implementation by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments.

The Council recognized the close cooperation between SEAFDEC and international/regional organizations/agencies in undertaking activities that address the priorities of Member Countries towards the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

At the closing of the Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council extended the appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the excellent hosting of the SEAFDEC Council Meeting and the warm hospitality accorded to the Council throughout the event. The Council then announced that the Fifty-second Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2020 would be hosted by the Government of Japan.

For further information, please contact:

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VOTE OF THANKS FOR THE HOST COUNTRY

*By Mr. Khin Maung Maw
SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar*

The Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, My fellow SEAFDEC Council Directors, Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!

On behalf of the SEAFDEC Council Directors and representatives from our collaborating partners attending this 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, I wish to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, particularly to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) for their warm hospitality and arrangements that make our stay in Surabaya, Indonesia very comfortable.

Please allow me also to congratulate the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the successful conduct of the Meeting. Although we had a very hectic schedule at this Meeting, I am glad that we are able to come up with policy guidance for SEAFDEC to consider in planning its future activities. I noted that through the discussion, the Member Countries were determined to support and strengthen SEAFDEC to enable it to continue performing its role in the sustainable development of fisheries in our region. I hope that the contribution of SEAFDEC to the region will be enhanced with more successful achievements in the years to come.

Finally, please allow me to also thank the Secretariat of the Meeting especially the staff of the MMAF for the smooth arrangements of our Meeting and for our memorable short stay in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Thank you very much.

CLOSING REMARKS

*By Dr. Kom Silapajarn,
Secretary-General of SEAFDEC*

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Honorable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
A very good afternoon,

First of all, on behalf of SEAFDEC I would like to express my sincerely thanks to the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia for very warm hospitalities during the 51st Meeting of the Council in this beautiful city of Surabaya.

In our meeting during the past few days, we have obtained a very fruitful discuss to assess and address the issues that will enable us to set the direction and policy for the implementation of SEAFDEC projects and program. I am very sure that all of us would continue to support the SEAFDEC activities in the future. All of us have enjoyed our stay during in this week.

Ladies and Gentlemen, for the years to come, I am surelythat SEAFDE will keep our best support to our member countries to ensure that South East Asian countries are on track to achieve the SDG 14, by implementing sustainable fisheries management and responsible fishing practices in the region. All of us have observed that this meeting can create concrete actions toward sustainable fisheries development in our region. With that note, all of Council Directors and Delegates, please join my highly appreciation to Mr. Chairperson and all of organizing team members of the government of Indonesia as the host country for organizing this important meeting.

Thank you and good day!