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Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council organized



SEAFDEC Council of Directors and head delegates during the 51st SEAFDEC Council Meeting

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.

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 Council was held on 18 March and presided over by the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, Ms.

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EDITORIAL

One of the major events during the first quarter of 2019 was the Fifty-first Meeting of SEAFDEC Council convened in Indonesia, where the progress of activities and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2018 as well as proposed program of activities to be undertaken in 2019 were reported. Upon noting the progress in the development and implementation of several regional fisheries policy frameworks that include the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy, the Council also approved the implementation of the Strategy by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments.

SEAFDEC also celebrated the International Women's Day by organizing the Special Seminar on Gender in Fisheries which highlighted on the guiding international framework in addressing the challenges of women in fisheries. During the seminar, SEAFDEC collaborated with relevant agencies to launch the Gender Analysis Toolkit for Coastal

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SEAFDEC facilitates the development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices

SEAFDEC organized 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

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Participants of the Regional Consultation on CITES-related issues


EDITORIAL

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Management Practitioners to serve as a tool for improving gender integration and mainstreaming in coastal resources management programs in South and Southeast Asia.

Moreover, several regional meetings were organized, including the Regional Consultation for Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices, which discussed the possible impacts of the newly proposed inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices, and developed a coordinated position of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. The Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters was also conducted which came up with the ways forward and actions to be implemented by countries as well as strengthened the regional collaboration towards scientific-based management for the sustainability of tuna resources.

SEAFDEC continued to conduct several training courses on machineries and fish handling onboard purse seine vessel, basic principles of fishing gears, EAFM, shark data collection, data collection and monitoring of eels, gender analysis, and freshwater aquaculture.

Other important activities were the extension of the Arrangement on Scientific and Education Cooperation between Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) and SEAFDEC for five years for strengthened cooperation in various fields of fisheries. SEAFDEC also welcomed the 2019 Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) members to take part in regional fisheries fora and support the smooth cooperation between SEAFDEC and their respective countries. 

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Fifty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council organized

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Susi Pudjiastuti who was represented by the Vice Governor of East Java Province, *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.

After taking note of the progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2018, the Council approved the proposed programs 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 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 also commended SEAFDEC for the progress made in the development of the "Regional Technical Guidelines and Mechanism for Early Warning System for Aquatic Diseases" and also the "Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood," and adopted those guidelines for 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 with a view to mainstreaming and integrating gender perspectives into the organization and in its programs, projects, and activities.

Moreover, the Council also acknowledged 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 for 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.



TD welcomes French delegations from maritime industry

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) welcomed *Mrs. Eve Raymond*, the International Development Manager of the French Sea Innovation Clusters, and her team on 15 January 2019. On this occasion, TD introduced SEAFDEC's role and mission in the Southeast Asian region. Moreover, the experiences of the clusters of SEAFDEC on maritime safety and security, marine saving energy, and marine biological resources were exchanged for possible collaboration in the future.

The mission of the French Sea Innovation Clusters is to serve the maritime sector in developing a competitive maritime economy by stimulating and encouraging innovations through collaboration under six major themes, namely: 1) maritime safety and security; 2) shipbuilding and leisure boat building; 3) marine energy and mining resources; 4) marine biological resources; 5) coastal environmental planning and management; and 6) ports, infrastructures and maritime transports. ✕

On-site training on machineries and handling onboard purse seine vessels organized

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “On-site Training on the Implementation of Fishery Machineries and Improvement of Fish Handling On-board Purse Seine Vessels” on 6 March 2019 in Pattani Province, Thailand. The 60 participants included skippers, master fishermen, fishing vessel owners, and important key stakeholders.

The training aimed to enhance the awareness of participants on energy efficiency, reduction of labor use in fishing, including safety at sea; to provide knowledge on research and development



on preservation of freshness of aquatic products, including efficient loading and unloading of the products; as well as to establish network of stakeholders to exchange information on saving energy, reducing labor, optimizing freshness of aquatic animals, and safety at workplace and at sea.

After this training, the participants should be able to improve good handling practices and hygiene onboard of fish for direct human consumption served at premium level; disseminate to the fleet the technical information and knowledge related to operation and handling of the fishery machinery onboard; reduce operation cost (*e.g.* labor cost, post-harvest losses and trash during storage, and transportation onboard until unloading at the landing site); and improve good fishing operations and practices at sea. ✕

Participants during the training on fish handling on-board purse seine vessels

SEAFDEC facilitates the development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices

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by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as senior officers from SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department (TD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD), the Regional Consultation was aimed at discussing among the Member Countries, the possible impacts of the newly proposed inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices, and developing common/coordinated position of the

Member Countries on such CEAS to be raised at the CITES CoP18 including a set of recommendations on the issues related to the conservation and sustainable utilization of these CEAS.

The representative from Malaysia, *Mr. Lawrence Kissol Jr.* was unanimously elected as Chairperson of Regional Consultation which came up with the countries' position on the proposed listing of several CEAS into the CITES Appendix II. Toward this end, the countries' position would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration *ad referendum*, and put forward to the ASEAN through the Focal Points for the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership also *ad referendum*. ✕

TD joins the celebration of the National Children's Day

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) joined Thailand in the celebration of the National Children's Day on 12 January 2019 at the Prachunlajomklao Navy Dockyard at the mouth of the Chao Phraya River in Thailand. TD displayed fishery resources conservation-themed information and games. Several groups of children, guided by their chaperons were engaged with the TD activities.

The National Children's Day in Thailand is traditionally organized every second Saturday of the year. It largely receives a widespread involvement from the public, mostly government organizations, especially the Prime Minister and the military who stage their interesting shows for the benefit of children as the hope in the future of the nation. ✕

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

AQD and BFAR begin on-site trainings



Together with the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) conducted an “On-site Training on Freshwater Aquaculture” in Kabacan, Cotabato Province during 25-28 February 2019 which was attended by 68 participants from all 17 towns of the Province. The training’s highlights included the demonstration of fry harvest, packing, acclimation, and transport prior to stocking in ponds. *Dr. Rolando Platon*, AQD culture systems specialist, demonstrated the preparation of feed for sex reversal of tilapia while AQD scientist *Dr. Frolan Aya* showed

the techniques in induced spawning of catfish and stripping of eggs.

BFAR Region 12 lauded AQD for bringing the training to the far-flung town to reach out to the stakeholders and train them on aquaculture technologies suitable for land-locked areas like Cotabato. The activity is part of the Joint Mission for Accelerated Technology Transfer Program, which aims to provide livelihood to the people and augment fish production. More training sessions will be conducted in other provinces.



IFRDMD supports the Indonesian Ministry Regulation on anguillid eel resources

The Bureau of Public Relations and International Cooperation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia organized the “Meeting on Anguillid Eel Resources” on 12 March 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Meeting was meant to prepare materials and reports on the Status of Utilization and Development of National Eel Resources. *Mr. Rifky Setiawan*, the Head of Multilateral and Regional Cooperation Section, presided at the Meeting, which was attended by officers from the Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Human Resource Development, Fish Quarantine, Directorate of Marine Conservation and Biodiversity, Regional Cooperation Subdivision-Bureau of Public Relations and International Cooperation, Research Institute for Inland Fisheries and Extension, and SEAFDEC Inland



Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD). *Ms. Ni Komang Suryati* from IFRDMD shared the information regarding the study on Anguillid eel resources conducted in Indonesia. The Meeting then discussed the urgent need to develop on Ministry Regulation regarding Anguillid eel seed trafficking between regions, restocking, farming, and catch of eel seeds and mature eels in Indonesia, which was supported by IFRDMD.



Capacity building on basic principles of fishing gears organized for Thai fisheries officers

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Training Course on Basic Principle of Fishing Gear” from 13 to 22 March 2019 in Samut Prakan, Thailand to build the capacity of trainees on the basic principles of fishing gears based on Thailand fisheries. The 23 participants included fisheries officers from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The training consisted of lectures and a study trip. At the end, all participants were expected to understand the principles and develop their skills not only in making but also in repairing fishing gears.



JICA Cambodia sends MARDeC staff to AQD for aquaculture training



Trainees from the Marine Aquaculture Research and Development Center (MARDeC), Cambodia at AQD to train on grouper culture and fish health management

To boost the marine aquaculture industry in Cambodia, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded four Cambodian technical staff from the Marine Aquaculture Research and Development Center (MARDeC) to train on the culture of grouper and fish health management at AQD from 4 February to 1 March 2019. *Mr. Oem Ramana* and *Mr. Ao Veasna* were trained on grouper culture while *Ms. Mey Sothea* and *Mr. Tey Teong* were trained

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Fisheries key stakeholders workshop in Lao PDR organized

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) under the project HRD for Sustainable Fisheries organized the “Workshop on Key Stakeholders’ Engagement and Investigate the Current Situation which Lead to the Low Income of the Fishers of the Project” in Lao PDR from 21 to 23 February 2019. The 24 participants were fishery officers and key stakeholders in fisheries. The Workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge and develop the skills of key stakeholders in identifying problems relevant to fisheries management for the development of appropriate management plans.



JICA Cambodia send MARDeC staff to AQD for aquaculture training

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on fish health management. The training covered lectures and practical sessions on the biology, ecology, and culture of grouper, including seed production, natural food culture, feed preparation and feed management. Grouper broodstock sampling at AQD’s Igang Marine Station was undertaken. Histopathology and other microbiological techniques were also covered by the training course.

Cambodia is one of the SEAFDEC Members Countries, but still has limited capacity in the marine and freshwater hatchery, therefore the country is looking forward to collaborating with SEAFDEC and other development partners to implement projects, as well as to conduct research and share knowledge. With regards to fish disease, Cambodia’s MARDeC also has inadequate experience in the techniques, materials, and equipment to diagnose, as well as to process samples in MARDeC. For seed production, the country’s target is to expand to more fish species including pompano, siganid, milkfish, and mullet. In addition, the country also plans to set up biosecurity measures in their hatcheries and laboratories.



Paddy-cum-Fish Culture Seminar conducted

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand organized a one-day seminar for sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt on “Paddy-cum-Fish Culture” on 15 February 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The 30 participants included researchers from the DOF Thailand, farmers from Amnat Charoen, Ayutthaya and Yasothon Provinces, as well as from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD staff.

The aims of the Seminar were to compile knowledge, experience, and lessons learnt on the paddy-cum-fish culture and compile useful ideas, points of view, and ways forward to improve/develop appropriate and effective patterns and methods of evolution of paddy-cum-fish culture in Thailand. For the next step, SEAFDEC and the DOF Thailand will cooperate and set-up a framework and plan of activities to conduct the paddy-cum-fish culture program in Thailand.



Meeting Workshop on Appropriate new trawl and purse seine fishing vessel design conducted



The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Meeting Workshop on Appropriate New Trawl and Purse Seine Fishing Vessel Design” on 18 February 2019 in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The aim of this Meeting was to present a new fishing vessel design and discuss on appropriate trawl and purse seine fishing vessel design. There were 45 participants from the National Fishery Association of Thailand, fishery associations from Samut Sakorn, Pattani, and Trat Provinces, shipyard/ship building industries, and Federal of Thai Industrials who attended in this Meeting. At the end, the Meeting came up with a concept of fleet for appropriate purse seine fishing vessel design with a view to improving energy efficiency, safety at sea, and good working/living condition on board.



Delegations from the Iloilo State College of Fisheries visit TD



Visitors from ISCOF observing TD facilities

Twelve delegates from the Iloilo State College of Fisheries (ISCOF) of the Philippines paid an official visit to SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) on 25 January 2019. In this occasion, the roles played by TD as well as sustainable regional fisheries development and its significant achievements were shared. Subsequently, a tour was conducted for

the delegates to observe TD facilities such as the fishing and engineering workshop, engine and Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) simulator, and the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

ISCOF is a public college in the Philippines mandated to provide higher technological, professional, and vocational instruction and training in fisheries science, as well as short-term technical or vocational courses in fisheries. Moreover, it also promotes research, advance studies, extension work, and leadership in its areas of specialization. Its main campus is located in Barangay Tiwi, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo, Philippines, and the other campuses are in Barotac Nuevo, Dingle, Dumangas, and San Enrique all in Iloilo Province.



Capacity of SEAFDEC Palembang staff on Project Cycle Management enhanced



Participants during the training on PCM

The “Training on Project Cycle Management (PCM)” was held for the staff of the Palembang-based SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) to enhance their capacity in effective planning and implementation of projects. Organized on 27-28 February 2019 in Palembang, Indonesia, the training had the specific

objectives of preparing, formulating, monitoring, and evaluating project documents that could be of interest for donors. Resource persons of the training were the former Director-General of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) *Mr. Pedro Bueno* and SEAFDEC Special Advisor. *Mr. Masanami Izumi*. The resource persons imparted to the participants the significance of development impacts, results chain, stages of project management, logical framework, as well as monitoring and evaluation. During the training, the participants were grouped into four based on their focused activities, namely: Anguillid eels, inland fisheries, information service, and administration. ❖

Celebrity vet comes to aid AQD’s FishWorld turtles



Dr. Ferdinand ‘Ferd’s’ Recio (*second from right*), TV host and veterinarian, with the rescued sea turtles (*Esther and Mikey*) at SEAFDEC/AQD’s FishWorld, and with the Officer-In-Charge of FishWorld Ms. Hananiah Pitogo (*third from right*).

As part of the advocacy of featuring environmental and biodiversity issues, celebrity host and veterinarian *Dr. Ferdinand Recio* of GMA Network’s ‘Born to be Wild’, a national TV show in the Philippines, visited SEAFDEC/AQD to provide medical assistance to rescued sea turtles with fibropapillomatosis and floater syndrome on 20 February 2019.

Esther, a female green sea turtle rescued at Ajuy in Iloilo, arrived at AQD’s FishWorld aquarium-museum in 2017 weak and with a poor appetite.

Since then *Esther* had been showing progress as she slowly eats and moves more than before. However, her wart-like tumors are getting bigger and are becoming a hindrance to the turtle’s movement and eating behavior. *Dr. Recio* and his team filmed the removal of one of the tumors for biopsy and discussed *Esther’s* condition with *Ms. Hananiah Pitogo*, Officer-In-Charge of FishWorld, AQD’s museum-aquarium visitor centre.

Fibropapillomatosis is a specific disease to sea turtles. According to FAO (2009), it is a tumorous growth that kills sea turtles and is now affecting large numbers of sea turtles around the world. It has been hypothesized that this epidemic, which is believed to be linked to toxic ocean pollution, is affecting the sea turtles’ immune system.

Dr. Recio and FishWorld staff brought another female olive ridley turtle, *Mikey*, to a veterinary clinic for an X-ray. She has been with the FishWorld for two years since she was rescued having been found to have a ‘floater syndrome’ which is a condition that inhibits turtles to dive for food or protection. ❖

EAFM training for Thai fisheries officers organized

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Training Course” from 26 February to 2 March 2019 in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand. The 25 Thai fisheries officers who attended the training, learned about fisheries management, human capacity development in the field of fisheries, and fishery extension.

This training course which focused on the integration of EAFM concept in developing fishery management plan, managing problems and issues, solving conflicts, and encouraging participation of fishery stakeholders, also included group discussion among the participants and resource persons. At the end, the participants were expected to apply the knowledge and experiences from this training to their work in relation to fisheries management. ❖

Aquaculturists of Philippine government train on feeding management at AQD

In preparation for a national feed development project which will be conducted between AQD, the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), 21 aquaculturists from different Philippine regions attended a training course on “Feeds and Feeding Management” on 26 February to 5 March 2019. The training is meant to help NFRDI in the supervision and implementation of the collaborative project which will be conducted in 2019-2020.

The feed development project is ultimately meant to help farmers lower their costs for feeds, particularly for milkfish and tilapia. At present, 50-70% of the cost of aquaculture is attributed to feeds. ❖

SEAFDEC holds Special Seminar on “Gender in Fisheries” in commemoration of the International Women’s Day



SEAFDEC Secretary-General (leftmost) and speakers who talked about gender in fishery from the international, regional, and national perspectives

Prior to the International Women’s Day (8 March every year), SEAFDEC organized the Special Seminar on “Gender in Fisheries” on 7 March 2019 at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand featuring three speakers from the international, regional, and national fisheries organizations. The first speaker was *Dr. Clara Mi Young Park*, the Regional Gender, Rural and Social Development Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Her presentation on “Gender Equality in Fisheries: an international perspective” highlighted on the guiding international frameworks particularly the FAO’s Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food

Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in addressing the challenges of women in fisheries around the world. The second speaker was *Dr. Amonrat Sermwatanakul*, Head of Senior Fisheries Experts at DOF Thailand and Chairperson of gender mainstreaming in cage culture research and shrimp farm under the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Her presentation on “Gender Awareness in Siamese Fighting Fish Aquaculture,” emphasized on the empowerment of fish farmers as well as the significant roles of women in Siamese fighting fish aquaculture. *Dr. Amonrat* was the principal proponent in recognizing the Siamese fighting fish

as Thailand’s national aquatic animal, which was approved by the government in February 2019. The third speaker was *Ms. Jariya Sornkliang*, the Fisheries Management Scientist and Gender Focal Point at SEAFDEC, who presented the paper “Promoting Gender Equality in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Southeast Asian Region,” that emphasized on the regional efforts of SEAFDEC in addressing gender issues particularly the development of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy and a Handbook on Gender Analysis. She also presented the results of the gender studies conducted by SEAFDEC in collaboration with partner organizations.

The 21 men and 50 women participants came from the DOF Thailand, Department of Women’s Affairs and Family Development Thailand, FAO, USAID Oceans, Network of Aquaculture Center in Asia-Pacific, Sustainable Development Foundation, SEAFDEC Secretariat, and SEAFDEC Training Department. ❖

Kalibo crab farmers find solutions to nursery woes

To improve the quality of crab production and culture, AQD in partnership with the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Kalibo Save the Mangroves Association (KASAMA), spearheaded a training session held on 1 to 2 February 2019 for local crab farmers of Kalibo in Aklan Province, Philippines. The mangrove-crab nursery project in Kalibo which began in 2016 is one of KOICA’s projects in collaboration with Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative (NFMC) and KASAMA, and as part of KOICA’s efforts to aid countries in terms of livelihood.

Prior to the training, the trainees were tasked to survey their culture area and identified problems that included lack of canals inside the pond, acidic water, low water level, wrong design of pond gates, and debris such as wilted



Training participants assessed the water quality conditions in the pond

nipa leaves littering the pond water. Among the solutions identified by the trainees were construction of new dike and canals inside the pond, maintaining water quality, and installing nets along the pond perimeter so that crabs would not escape from the pond.

The trainees were engaged in a series of lectures on pond construction and design, water and soil quality management, and proper culture methods for nursery and grow-out. They were

also engaged with hands-on pond assessment activities, water and soil monitoring, and stocking. The trainees were provided with examples of the ideal size of the screen net for the pond, as well as instructions on how to build crab shelters. To counteract overfeeding, the farmers were taught how to compute the ideal amount of food based on stocking density and were tasked to keep a logbook for monitoring of the feeding times. ❖

SPECIAL REPORT

Inland Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Region: Promoting Habitat Conservation in Lao PDR and Indonesia

by *Dina Muthmainnah and Takuro Shibuno*
SEAFDEC/IFRDMD

The Southeast Asian region is endowed with enormous areas of inland waters resources, such as rivers, lakes, floodplains, reservoirs, dams, and wetlands. Fisheries in inland waters have long been a vital component of food security and livelihood for the local people living in the vicinity of inland water bodies. However, the inland waters are also utilized by other sectors such as water transportation and palm plantation that pollute the habitats, which would negatively impact the aquatic organisms and fishery production.

SEAFDEC/IFRDMD is playing a significant role in promoting and establishing the management of inland fisheries in Southeast Asia. The Department has implemented the five-year project “Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia” from 2014 to 2019 funded by the Japanese Trust Fund VI. In cooperation with the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) of Lao PDR and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) through the Fishery Services of Musi Banyuasin Regency, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia, the Project conducted habitat conservation and resource enhancement activities in the inland waters of Lao PDR and Indonesia. Technical assistance was provided to the stakeholders in Lao PDR and Indonesia through institutional building and conservation area selection.

The purposes of habitat conservation are to maintain the populations of fish stock, sustain fish production, protect the endemic species and ecosystems (spawning grounds, nursery grounds, and feeding grounds), as well as to maintain the populations of vulnerable and endangered species. Thus, the demarcation of conservation areas in inland waters should be coupled with the establishment of relevant community rules and regulations and integrated with the rights-based fisheries approach to regulate fishing activities in the conservation areas. Workshops were therefore organized with the local community to discuss and define the functions and responsibilities in controlling and managing the demarcated areas for conservation. The Project has set up eight signages in Lao PDR and Indonesia to strengthen the enhancement of recruitment of stock. The signages contain the regulations for fisheries management of fisheries community zone, which do not allow any person or group of people to fish in the conservation area. Written in local languages, the signages also include the information on the importance and benefits of conservation areas.

In Lao PDR, Nam Xouang Reservoir was built in 1981 in northern Lao PDR with the main purpose of providing water to irrigate the rice fields. Also, the reservoir support the fishing activities of the people in the surrounding area providing them with food and income. The government established a Fisheries Management Committee in Phonhong District and Naxaythong District to support the fisheries in the reservoir.



Setting up of the signboard in Nam Xouang Reservoir, Lao PDR



The ceremony of installing the signboard in Nam Xouang Reservoir



Discussion with Fishery Management Community in Nam Xouang Reservoir, Lao PDR

SEAFDEC and DLF have installed the buoys to mark the conservation areas which had been declared as no-fishing zones in order to enhance the recruitment of fish stock. The SEAFDEC/TD, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, and the DLF provided technical assistance by conducting training to the enumerators to collect fisheries and fish biology data including the daily



Sharing of information with Fishery Services, Musi Banyuasin Regency, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia



The ceremony of installing the signboard in Musi Banyuasin Regency, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia

data on weight-length, total catch, fishing operation, and fishing gears. For the socio-economic and gender data, the enumerators collect data from 60 fishers in Phonhong District and 40 fishers in Naxaythong District.

For Indonesia, three lakes, namely Ulak Lia Lake, Cala Lake, and Siarak Lake in Musi Banyuasin Regency, South Sumatra Province were selected for habitat conservation. These lakes have the deepest pool of floodplain and are always inundated, have high fish diversity, and serve as nursery area. The floodplains are utilized for capture fisheries through leasing auction activity held by local government. The winners of the auction can recruit other fishers and authorized to manage their territory. The licensed fishers utilize the inland fishery resources and participate in the decision-making process where they agreed to use responsible fishing gears and fish beyond the conservation zones to secure stock recruitment. The area in the lakes with 5-10 m water depth had been appropriated as a conservation area where the water level, circulation, and quality are maintained even during the dry season. Meetings were organized to educate the local government and enhance their understanding of the concept of co-management and rights-based fisheries approaches in managing the conservation zones.

Even though the habitat conservation strategies in each country varies due to differences in problems, needs, and government regulations, the participation of the local community in decision making and resource management should be promoted until the local community could establish their own management bodies with support from the government. It should be considered also that the determination of conservation zones should be based on sufficient scientific information. ❏



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

SEAFDEC participates in two global MCS events

SEAFDEC Secretary-General *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*, together with SEAFDEC staff and SEAFDEC-Sweden Project team, attended the “Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies (SAFET) Conference” organized by WWF and its partners in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-16 February 2019. The aim of the Conference was to foster the latest global technologies and its application in seafood supply chain traceability system and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) tools to combat IUU fishing. At this Conference, SEAFDEC exhibited relevant publications on its regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing which include the Regional Fishing Vessels Record and electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme.

Subsequent to the SAFET Conference, SEAFDEC representatives also attended the “6th Global Fisheries Enforcement

Training Workshop (GFETW),” jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand and International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network on 18-22 February 2019 also in Bangkok. The 200 participants or so gathered and exchanged knowledge at the Workshop, were representatives from diverse MCS practitioners such as scientists, fisheries inspectors, enforcement officers, compliance officers of RFMOs, NGOs, from various countries around the



SEAFDEC Secretary-General (third from left) and SEAFDEC staff during the MCS event



world. The theme of the 6th GFETW was “Closing the Net: Global cooperation between flag, coastal, port and market States for effective enforcement of international and domestic law.” At this Training Workshop, SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*, presented the SEAFDEC initiative on the establishment of Sub-regional Cooperation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Networks in the Southeast Asian region, which is being funded by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. ❖

National workshop and training on sharks data collection for enumerators in the Philippines



SEAFDEC, in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources -Regional Office VI (BFAR VI), organized the “Training on Taxonomic Identification and SEAFDEC Data Collection Protocol for Sharks and Rays in the Philippines” in Iloilo City, Philippines from 15 to 17 January 2019. The Training was attended by 33 participants and observers including 17 BFAR enumerators from the Region VI (Western Visayas) which comprises the Provinces of Iloilo, Antique, Aklan, Capiz, Guimaras, and Negros Occidental. Officers from BFAR VI as well as

from the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), representatives from the private sector, and resource persons from SEAFDEC also took part in the Training.

The chosen venue was crucial for the Training because the Region VI is surrounded by productive fishing grounds, of which the Visayan Sea and Guimaras Strait are known fishing grounds for shark and ray species. Moreover, BFAR records also showed a long-term series of catch landings

for sharks and rays in Western Visayas, but the veracity of the taxonomic identification in terms of species classification of such landings is still not certain due to the inadequacy of the needed expertise. The Training was important for field enumerators of the Philippines, especially those coming from the Western Visayas, in order to ensure that the data on sharks and rays could be reported not only in terms of volume of catch but also classified in terms of species. The Training also facilitated the compilation of biological information as well as the catch and effort of the shark and ray landings, necessary to determine the stock status of certain targeted sharks and rays species. The said information would provide the necessary inputs for the establishment of the country’s non-detriment findings (NDF) for sharks and rays species, where catch, trade, and utilization data are not properly documented and/or reported. ❖

Enhancing the role of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network

The SEAFDEC Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) is a program that aims to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation and human resource capacity development for fisheries officers of the ASEAN Member States.

The RFPN members for 2019 for Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam are already at the Secretariat while another one will be coming from Malaysia. During their secondment at SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand, the RFPN members will have the opportunity to take part in regional fisheries to gain knowledge and better understanding of current global and regional fisheries issues confronting the



region, e.g. international fisheries-related issues, transboundary fishery resources, IUU fishing, CITES, among others. They will be given the chance to share their views on various fisheries issues related to the regional and sub-regional programs implemented by SEAFDEC in achieving sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture

*The 2019 RFPN members-
Back row from left:
Mr. Khambor Souliphone (Lao PDR),
Ms. Kay Khine Tint (Myanmar),
Mr. Agus Sapari (Indonesia),
Ms. Sumolmal Suwannapoom (Thailand)
Front row from left:
Ms. Thanh Phuong Vu (Viet Nam),
Ms. Jennifer G. Viron (Philippines),
and Mr. Ngin Kamsan (Cambodia)*

to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation, and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region. Moreover, during their one-year tenure, the RFPN members will support the smooth cooperation between SEAFDEC and their respective countries as well as obtain multicultural interactions among the Network and others. ❖

Regional Technical Meeting on collaborative research survey in the Gulf of Thailand convened

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Regional Technical Meeting on the Evaluation of the Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand” from 8 to 9 of January 2019 in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The 50 participants comprised researchers of the Collaborative Project and representatives from the concerned government authorities and the academic institutions from Thailand, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.

The Meeting was aimed at reporting and summarizing the findings of the Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand carried out by M.V. SEAFDEC 2 conducted during 17 August to 18 October 2018. Furthermore, this Meeting also provided a platform for setting-up of a timeframe and follow-up actions for the samples and data analysis as well as preparation for the presentation and publication of the results. The Meeting also discussed the information and data



Regional Technical Meeting, participants from Viet Nam

sharing schemes and the human resource development program to support the Member Countries. ❖

Chinese Consul General in the Philippines keens to collaborate on fisheries research

Consul General *Jia Li* of the Consulate of the People’s Republic of China in Cebu, Philippines, expressed interest to

make progress together with SEAFDEC/AQD as it promotes cooperation between China and the Philippines



with regards to the fisheries sector. During his visit at AQD’s Tigbauan Main station on 22 February 2019, the Consul General and his delegation met with AQD Chief *Mr. Dan Baliao* and researchers. The Consul General wants to establish collaboration between research institutions in aquaculture, in fisheries, in general with AQD, and was delighted when he knew that there were some MOUs between Chinese scientists and AQD, however the MOUs are expected to materialize only when proposals will be submitted. Meanwhile, *Mr. Li* invited AQD specialists to visit China. ❖

SEAFDEC participates in the WPEA-SM Project Consultative Forum

SEAFDEC Senior Policy Officer and SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Manager *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn* joined the “West Pacific East Asia-Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas (WPEA-SM Project) Consultative Forum,” which was hosted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Aklan, Philippines on 28-30 January 2019. The Forum was attended by country representatives from Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam and representatives from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), SEAFDEC, as well as WCPFC officers. The Forum was aimed at reviewing the situation and cases of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing practices in this sub-region; identifying key components for cooperation and collaboration in tuna fisheries at sub-regional level, as well as addressing IUU fishing activities in the East Asian seas oceanic tuna fisheries.



During the Forum, SEAFDEC shared information on regional initiatives in addressing IUU fishing in Southeast Asia (ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of IUU Fish and Fishery Products into the Supply Chain, Regional Fishing Vessels Record, Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS), and Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of Port State Measures). In addition, *Ms. Pattaratjit* highlighted the on-going initiatives which are being supported by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project such as strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) networks, promotion

of bilateral dialogues, sub-regional technical meetings for effective fisheries management for the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea Sub-regions, and sustainability of transboundary species in Southeast Asia waters (*e.g.* neritic tunas, mackerels).

At the end, the Forum was able to deliver the common gaps/elements in addressing IUU fishing in oceanic tuna fisheries in East Asian seas. The participants also proposed the mechanism on the establishment of the sub-regional fishery monitoring of IUU fishing among WPEA countries. ✪

Capacity building on gender in fisheries continued

The SEAFDEC Technical Working Group (TWG) on Human Welfare for Gender and Labor for the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) participated in the “Workshop of Raising Awareness of Gender Equity and Women Empowerment in Fisheries Management in General Santos and Sarangani Bay Area, Philippines” from 21 to 23 February 2019 in General Santos, Philippines. Organized by the USAID Oceans and participated by officers from organizations under the Government of the Philippines, the Workshop aimed to obtain information on the gender analysis in tuna fisheries value chain, and to obtain the commitment of the participants to support the interventions on raising awareness of gender equity and women empowerment in fisheries management in



General Santos and Sarangani Bay Area, Philippines.

Moreover, the “Capacity Development Training Workshop on Gender Analysis for Fisheries Management and Development in

Mekong Region” was organized from 12 to 14 March 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, also supported by the USAID Oceans. The Workshop was conducted upon the request of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) of Lao PDR with the aim of increasing understanding

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IFRDMD researchers tag on Training of Trainers for Data Collection and Monitoring of Eels



Participants of the Training of Trainers for Data Collection and Monitoring of Eels

SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) researchers *Ms. Ni Komang Suryati* and *Mr. Aroef Hukmanan Rais* attended the “Training of Trainers (ToT) for Collecting Data and Monitoring Eels Population: Glass

Eels” on 21-22 March 2019 in Bogor, Indonesia. The ToT was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization Global Environment Facility (FAO-GEF) Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF). The goal of the

ToT was to implement the collaborative programs between MMAF and FAO on “Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Inland Fisheries Practices in Freshwater Ecosystem of High Conservation Value (I-Fish)” and “Sustainable Management of Anguillid Eels Resources in Indonesia.”

The ToT was participated by 64 Anguillid eel stakeholders in Indonesia, namely: fishers, collectors, farmers, local government officers, extension officers, fish quarantine officers, MMAF, FAO officers, and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD. The ToT also established the Indonesian network for collecting data and monitoring of Anguillid eels.



IFRDMD researcher bags the 2nd best paper at the National Seminar on World Water Day 2019

The researcher from SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, *Dr. Dina Muthmainnah* won the second place for the best paper award during the “National Seminar on World Water Day 2019” which covered key topics on water conservation, climate change, and natural water resources.

Dr. Muthmainnah presented the results of the research on “Developing Habitat Conservation in Nam Xouang

Reservoir, Lao PDR.” Her co-authors were *Mr. Aroef Hukmanan Rais* from IFRDMD and *Ms. Dongdavanh Sibouthong* from the Fisheries Division, Department of Livestock and Fisheries Lao PDR. The Seminar was organized by the Postgraduate Program of Sriwijaya University in Palembang, South Sumatera, Indonesia on 21 March 2019.



Capacity building on gender in fisheries continued

(Continued from Page 12)

of gender mainstreaming in different organizational levels, which includes integrating gender into the policy, structure, and culture of the organization. The Workshop was participated by the TWG on Human Welfare for Gender and Labor from four countries of the Mekong region: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam; and 15 DLF staff.

SEAFDEC takes part in the Embassy of Sweden’s Annual Regional Workshop 2019



The SEAFDEC - Sweden Project Manager, *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn* attended the Embassy of Sweden’s Annual Regional Workshop with the theme “Empowering People for a Sustainable Future,” which

was convened on 25-26 March 2019 at the UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. Highlighting on the importance of participation and empowerment in achieving more sustainable and inclusive societies, the Workshop provided opportunity to various stakeholders and partners to discuss and share experiences on the importance of people’s participation in supporting the implementation of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly the Zero Hunger (SDG2), Gender Equality (SDG5), Climate Action (SDG13), Life Below Water (SDG14), and the like.



“Capacity Building on Gender Sensitivity and Responsiveness: National Marine Resources and Fisheries Gender Roadmap Workshop” was organized from 26 to 27 March 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia by the USAID Oceans in cooperation with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. The aim of the Workshop was to build capacity on gender sensitivities and responsiveness through the review of gender perspective on marine and fisheries roadmap in Bitung, Indonesia. At this Workshop, the TWG on Human Welfare for Gender and Labor of SEAFDEC presented lessons learned from gender analysis in marine resources and fisheries, especially from the SEAFDEC gender studies in coastal fisheries in Southeast Asia.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
2019			
23 April	Manila, Philippines	Workshop on Statistic of Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia	Secretariat
24-25 April	Manila, Philippines	Workshop on Aquaculture of Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia	Sec/JAIF Eel project
29 April -1 May	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Training on Age Determination Using Vertebra for Sharks and Rays	TD
1-2 May	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting on Way Forward of the Resolution & Plan of Action 2020	Secretariat
13-18 May	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Practical Workshop on Tuna Stock Risk Assessment for Yellowfin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna and Skipjack Tuna Resources in Sulu and Sulawesi Seas (SSSs)	TD
22-23 May	Bangkok, Thailand	Inception Meeting on the Development of an ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study	DOF Thailand and EU
27-31 May	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Training Course on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	TD
16-20 June	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Regional Training and Workshop on Chondrichthyan Taxonomy, Biology and Data Collection	MFRDMD
20-21 June	Chonburi, Thailand	Gulf of Thailand Sub-regional MCS Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
24 June - 7 July	Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Marine Fish Hatchery Operations	AQD
25-27 June	Iloilo City, Philippines	International Workshop on Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture, Aquatic Animal Health, and Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia	AQD
5-9 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Review Training Program on Optimizing Energy and Improve Safety at Sea for Small Fishing	TD
9 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Workshop on the Development of the Action Plan for SEAFDEC Gender Strategy	TD
10-11 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Experts Consultation Workshop on Finalization of the Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	TD
18-19 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	National Workshop on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings Document	SEAFDEC EU/ CITES Project-II
22-23 July	Bangkok, Thailand	3 rd Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	Secretariat JAIF project
22-26 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Implementation for Inspector	TD
25-26 July	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Regional Training Course for the Improvement on Management of Inland Fisheries	IFRDMD
6-7 August	Tawau, Malaysia	National Workshop on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings Document	SEAFDEC EU/ CITES Project-II
14-15 August	Singapore	End-of-Project (EOP) Meeting for 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 Programmes
20-21 August	Bangkok, Thailand	Southern Andaman Sea Sub-regional MCS Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
August (Tentative)	Indonesia	National Workshop on NDFs for CITES Listed Aquatic Species	SEAFDEC EU/ CITES Project-II
3-5 September	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Terminal RTC for Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products Project	MFRDMD
8-9 October (Tentative)	Thailand	8 th Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
11-13 November	Chiang Mai, Thailand	42 nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee	SEAFDEC
14-15 November	Chiang Mai, Thailand	22 nd Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	SEAFDEC

Gender Synthesis Report and Gender Analysis Toolkit are now available

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and advance gender-integrated and gender responsive plan, as it provides direction around key instruments, concepts, and themes for qualitative gender analysis in each coastal ecosystem-dependent communities.

The publication "Gender in coastal and fisheries resources management: A regional synthesis report" could be accessed from <http://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/4564>; while "Gender analysis toolkit for coastal management practitioners" could be accessed from <http://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/4565>. ☒

Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency and SEAFDEC extend Arrangement for Scientific and Educational Cooperation

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Dr. Kom Silapajarn presenting IUU Countermeasures in Southeast Asia during the signing of collaborative arrangement between FRA and SEAFDEC

Since mid-2000s, SEAFDEC has established Arrangements for cooperation with the Japan Fisheries Research Agency (formerly FRA) and National Fisheries University (NFU). As these two agencies were recently merged into the new Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, this newly signed Arrangement also signified merging of collaboration between SEAFDEC and the two agencies that have existing collaboration with SEAFDEC.

Held in conjunction with the Signing Ceremony was the Special Seminar on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. During the Seminar, presentation was made by Mr. Miyahara on the Scientific Monitoring of IUU Activities and Their Impacts on Fish Stocks; while Dr. Kom presented the IUU Countermeasures in Southeast Asia. ☒

Note for contributors

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

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

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Layout: Sunutta Pudtal

Fifth Meeting of Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian waters organized

The SEAFDEC-Sweden Project organized the “5th Meeting of Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters” from 9 to 11 January 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, representatives from Food and Agriculture Organization/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), officers from SEAFDEC Secretariat, MFRDMD and TD as well as *Dr. Tsutomu Nishida*, the Japanese expert as Resource Person of the Meeting.

The aim of the Meeting was to discuss the results of the stock and risk assessment of Indo-Pacific king mackerel



and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, and results of the genetic study of longtail tuna in the Southeast Asian waters. Finally, the Meeting came up with the way forward and actions to be implemented by the

countries and strengthened regional collaboration among the AMSs towards scientific-based management of neritic tuna stock for the sustainability of the fishery resources in the region. ✦

Gender Synthesis Report and Gender Analysis Toolkit are now available



A Gender Analysis Toolkit (GAT)

In celebration the International Women’s Day, SEAFDEC collaborated with Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to launch a Gender Analysis Toolkit (GAT) on 8 March 2019. GAT is meant to improve gender integration and mainstreaming in coastal resource management programs in South and Southeast Asia and support coastal and

fisheries management practitioners, such as program officers or technical advisors from development and environmental agencies in developing the baseline knowledge around gender dimensions related to coastal and natural resources use, livelihoods, and ecosystems management. GAT serve as guide for practitioners to identify gender gaps,

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Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency and SEAFDEC extend Arrangement for Scientific and Educational Cooperation

The Signing Ceremony of the Arrangement for Scientific and Educational Cooperation between Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) and SEAFDEC was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 January 2019. Signed by the President of FRA *Mr. Masanori Miyahara*, and SEAFDEC Secretary-General *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*, this Arrangement covers a period of five years from the signing date with the objectives of developing scientific and technical cooperation, as well as



FRA's Mr. Masanori Miyahara (left) and SEAFDEC's Dr. Kom Silapajarn (right) during the Signing Ceremony

academic and educational cooperation in various fields that are of interest to the two organizations. Other areas for collaboration if required would be subject to further discussions. The Signing Ceremony was witnessed by the Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs of SEAFDEC/TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD, officials from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, and staff of SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD.

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