

**DRAFT**  
**Report of SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting**  
**3 December 2016, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

1. The SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting was organized on 3 December 2016 at the Royal Ambarrukmo Hotel in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and officers of SEAFDEC Secretariat, as well as the Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Special Coordinators, and respective delegations of the SEAFDEC Departments. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**. The Agenda of the Meeting appears as **Annex 2**.

**1 Follow-up Actions to the 48<sup>th</sup> CM, 39<sup>th</sup> PCM and 19<sup>th</sup> FCG/ASSP Meeting**

**• Report on Follow-up Actions to the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council**

2. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that the follow-up actions to the directives of the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council from April 2015 to the present have been compiled by the Secretariat and presented during the 39<sup>th</sup> PCM (**Annex 3**). However, as the document would be reported to the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2017, thus, it will have to cover activities until the next Council Meeting. The Departments were therefore requested to update and finalize the follow-up actions that they have undertaken with respect to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council and submit the final document to the Secretariat by the end of February 2017 (i.e. by merging 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Follow-up Actions into one column).

**• Required Follow-up Actions to the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC PCM**

3. The Secretariat informed the Meeting on the Required Follow-up Actions to the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee on 28-30 November 2016 (**Annex 4**), and the corresponding responsible Departments for such actions. In this regard, concerned Departments were requested to undertake the corresponding actions and report the progress to the Secretariat by the end of February 2017 so that the document could be finalized for the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2017.

4. Specifically, the Meeting provided recommendations on the following aspects (**Reference:** Adopted Report of the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center):

- Para 14: JTF to discuss with TD on the proposed training on safety at sea in Malaysia with resource persons from Japan
- Para 18: TD to discuss with Mr. Bundit on the results of the ASEAN Meetings in Bali, Indonesia on 30 November 2016, and 1-2 December 2016, for the improvement of the project on “optimizing energy use/improving safety onboard fishing activities”
- Para 25: TD together with IFRDMD to identify the research institutes in Indonesia that undertake activities on stock enhancement of inland fisheries
- Para 28: AQD to communicate with Malaysia with the help of MFRDMD/SDC for the requirements with respect to proposed conduct of collaborative aquaculture research with national agencies of Malaysia
- Para 29: As the Secretariat plans to establish an e-mail notification system on new research results and emerging issues to Member Countries (i.e. through the Council Directors, Alternate Council Directors and National Coordinators), Departments were requested to send information to the Secretariat to be included in such notifications, and more specifically, AQD to communicate with MFRDMD to access the AQD repository so that Malaysia could obtain the results of most research studies conducted by AQD (*In a related development, the Secretariat was asked to regularly provide the updated list of Council Directors, Alternate Council Directors and National Coordinators, to all Departments*)

- Para 34: For the Handbook on Inland Fisheries Profile of the Southeast Asian Region, IFRDMD could refer to a similar publication produced by the Mekong River Commission (MRC)
- Para 50: Concerns on sharing of the RFVR Database to other national agencies should be discussed at the upcoming Regional Technical Consultation on RFVR proposed by TD, although sharing of the Database is in principle up to the respective AMSs
- Para 54: On the request of IFRDMD, information on IUU fishing in inland fisheries could be included in Handbook on Inland Fisheries Profile of the Southeast Asian Region to be produced by IFRDMD
- Para 56: The ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain is very broad comprising several supportive management tools, thus, the proposal to make it mandatory instead of being voluntary in nature should be raised during the forthcoming Meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi for endorsement
- Para 57: All Departments to take into consideration in planning and formulation of future programs, the 11 key items stipulated in the Joint Declaration, as appropriate
- Para 60: As the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is being restored with financial support from JICA, the proposal to install new scientific echo-sounder onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 could be considered in the future, with the possibility of sourcing financial assistance from Japan (~300,000 USD) to be explored
- Para 66: As the Secretariat plans to organize Regional technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics in 2017 to discuss the ways and means of improving statistics to meet with emerging regional requirements for sustainable fisheries management, relevant Departments would be invited to take part in the RTC
- Para 67: On the proposed usage of GIS and remote sensing technologies to monitor inland fishery resources, IFRDMD to communicate directly with National Coordinator for Thailand for more details, and to formulate the proposal in consultation with potential funding sources (e.g. JTF, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), FAO) and to accommodate this aspect into its future programs
- Para 69: MFRDMD to integrate in its plan the assessment of other management measures adopted by other AMSs for sustainability of pelagic fisheries
- Para75: Secretariat to provide updated information to AMSs on the “Rules of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act”

5. While expressing the concern on the low utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 by the Member Countries, DSG informed the Meeting that he would consider the ways and means of enhancing the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future. The Meeting noted that the low rate of utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is due to the revision of cost-sharing scheme where requesting AMSs would cover the “fuel cost for the entire duration of the research including cruising to and back from TD to the requesting country.”

**• Required Follow-up Actions to the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP**

6. The Secretariat informed the Meeting on the Required Follow-up Actions to the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP (**Annex 5**), and the responsible Departments for such actions. In this regard, the Departments were requested to undertake corresponding actions and report the progress to the Secretariat by the end of February 2017 so that the document could be finalized for the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2017.

7. The Meeting provided specific recommendations on the following aspects (**Reference:** Adopted Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)):

- Para 23: Although it is the responsibility of AMSs to coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat and follow-up the issue in relation to the development of the ASEAN Common Fisheries

- Policy, SEAFDEC Secretariat to also follow-up on the progress of this matter with the ASEAN Secretariat
- Para 38 and 39: TD to discuss the concerns of Thailand and Singapore on the certain provisions of the PSMA with FAO
  - Para 49: On the establishment of joint conservation and management of catadromous eels, IFRDMD to seek support from AQD on matters related to eel farming
  - Para 53: AQD to expand the warning system network to cover all diseases and to seek funding support for such expansion
  - Para 61: SEAFDEC Secretariat to check the availability of the ASEAN Secretariat to make sure that it is represented during the discussions on ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative activities at the FCG/ASSP meetings

**2. Way Forward of the High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community: Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products**

8. The Secretariat requested the Departments to consider the eleven (11) key items in the Joint Declaration that has linkage to their respective activities. However, in cases where SEAFDEC activities have already been planned along line with the said items, the Departments are encouraged to strengthen their activities to contribute to the implementation of the Joint Declaration. This should not be limited only to the current activities, but also the initiatives from past projects, *e.g.* on food safety undertaken by MFRD, which should also be included. The Secretariat would be requesting the Departments to provide inputs on their respective relevant activities which would be reported to the next Council Meeting.

**3. Updated Progress of the Preparation of SEASOFIA2017**

9. The Secretariat informed the Meeting on the progress of SEASOFIA 2017, particularly the unavailability of inputs for particular topics from the Departments. Concerned Departments that have not completed their inputs for the SEASOFIA were therefore requested to submit their inputs to the Secretariat by the end of December 2016.

10. The Meeting noted that MFRDMD is planning to organize an internal Workshop on 8-9 December 2016 involving various organizations and national institutes, to discuss issues in the SEASOFIA that are under the responsibility of MFRDMD, including sea cucumbers among others, and to come up with article inputs for SEASOFIA. In this regard, MFRDMD was asked to submit such article inputs to the Secretariat by the end of December 2016.

11. TD also noted the suggestion of the Meeting that the topic on deep sea fishery resources including deep sea shrimps should be provided by TD, utilizing the results from deep sea fishery resources surveys using the research vessels of SEAFDEC.

12. In conclusion, the remaining inputs to be submitted by Department are summarized as follows:

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Departments</b>
1.2 Important Demersal Fishery Resources 1.2.2 Species as Raw Materials for Surimi	SEC/PPC Office
1.3 Deep Sea/Offshore Fisheries Resources 1.3.1 Status and Trend	TD
1.3.2 Deep sea shrimps	TD
1.3.3 Oceanic Squids	SEC/PPC Office
1.4 Challenges and Future Direction (Marine Fishery Resources)	Secretariat
3.3 Sea Turtles	MFRDMD
3.6 Coral Reef Ornamental Species	MFRDMD

3.7 Challenges and Future Direction (Species under International Concern)	Secretariat
5.7 Challenges and Future Direction (Fishery Management)	Secretariat

13. MFRD suggested that the title of Topic 4 on “Utilization of Fishery Resources” should be changed to “Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products.” However, since the current structure has been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council, such proposed change should be raised to the Council when the final draft of SEASOFIA submitted by the Secretariat for the Council’s consideration, is discussed during the Council Meeting.

#### 4. Issues of Inland Fisheries and Freshwater Aquaculture

14. The Meeting took note of the request made by the AMSs during the Workshop on Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia in Palembang in 2016 for IFRDMD to also include issues on freshwater aquaculture in its activities. Considering that it does not have expertise on this aspect, *e.g.* on addressing negative effects of freshwater aquaculture on the environment, IFRDMD sought the support of AQD on this matter.

15. In response, AQD informed the Meeting that it has documented several case studies, *e.g.* effects from intensive farming, effects of over-stocking lakes, and had come up with appropriate management strategies for these concerns. AQD could therefore arrange a customized training for relevant staff of IFRDMD on this aspect.

#### 5. Establishment of a Regional Repository Center for Marine Fishes at MFRDMD

16. The Chief of MFRDMD proposed to carry out the “Establishment of a Regional Repository Center for Marine Fishes at MFRDMD” (**Annex 6**) which aims to come up with a repository of information (from MFRDMD and external sources available in the region) and specimens of marine fishes in the South China Sea area. This could be a 10-year project to be able to compile all specimens, and requires the budget of 10,000 USD annually to maintain the repository.

17. During the discussion, the Meeting suggested that since maintenance of the repository is a long-term work and should not be terminated once the project is completed, MFRDMD should consider securing long-term funds from its Departmental regular budget to maintain such repository. Furthermore, the Meeting suggested that MFRDMD should seek the consideration and approval of the SEAFDEC Council on this proposal.

18. While recalling that AQD has established its departmental repository, the Meeting was informed that the repository of AQD comprises documentation of articles produced from research studies conducted by AQD staff. The Meeting was of the view that the establishment of repositories by the Departments and Secretariat, which should be linked together to facilitate access to information, needs to be supported and endorsed. In this connection, the Secretariat was asked to facilitate the conduct of inter-departmental Workshop on the development of SEAFDEC repositories, and sought the assistance of AQD during the said Workshop. The expected output from this Workshop should be the establishment of repository of information by the respective Departments.

19. With regards to repository of specimens, AQD also informed the Meeting that the AQD FishWorld stores specimens using particular software to store the information on such specimens to ensure that standard format is used for recording the data. MFRDMD could communicate with AQD to obtain the information on such program.

#### 6. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SEAFDEC

20. While recalling the discussion on the concept note for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SEAFDEC during the 39<sup>th</sup> PCM, the Meeting expressed the view that the awards for relevant organizations and donors could be in the form of “token of appreciation or certificate of recognition” instead of award. The

Meeting also took note of the following program for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of SEAFDEC, as endorsed by the 39<sup>th</sup> PCM:

09.00-11.00 hrs.	Special SEAFDEC Council Meeting
11.00-14.00 hrs.	Lunch on-board the M.V. SEAFDEC
17.00-18.00 hrs.	Anniversary celebration <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Video presentation (with music background no narration)</li><li>• Remarks by Guest of Honor</li><li>• Presentation of awards</li><li>• Presentation of tokens of appreciation</li><li>• Launching of publications</li></ul>
18.00-21.00 hrs.	Gala Dinner

21. For the tokens of appreciation/certificates of recognition, the Meeting viewed that this should be given to: Countries hosting Departments; Main donors, *e.g.* Japanese Government, Swedish Government; and collaborating organizations that provide significant contributions (technical/financial) to SEAFDEC. Specifically for collaborating organizations, the Departments were requested to propose few numbers of names, together with descriptions of support from such organizations, to the Secretariat by February 2017 for compilation and preparation of summary document for consideration by the SEAFDE Council during its 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting in April 2017.

22. With regards to the most outstanding staff, the Meeting agreed on the following criteria to be used for nominating the Awardees:

- One person from each Department and the Secretariat
- Staff (current or former staff) who is still alive at present
- Provide significant contribution to the existence of SEAFDEC, or
- His/her contribution to fisheries development of the region is well recognized

23. In this connection, Departments should submit the names of their respective candidates together with short description of the outstanding achievement of the staff, to the Secretariat by February 2017 to enable the Secretariat to seek the consideration of the SEAFDE Council during its forthcoming meeting. The Meeting also agreed that the Secretariat should shoulder the participation cost of the outstanding staff members to receive the award during the Anniversary event.

24. Furthermore, the Meeting agreed that an exhibition could also be arranged at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event to display the outstanding achievements of SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat, with inputs from the respective Departments.

25. In addition to the Anniversary Event to be organized in November 2017 in Pattaya, the Departments could also arrange separate anniversary events at the respective Departments, and give awards to their respective staff (this could include various categories, *e.g.* researchers and general support staff of the Departments), as well as external persons that provide significant contributions to Departmental programs and activities.

## **7. Preparation for the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2017**

26. The Meeting discussed the Provisional Agenda of the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and provided the following recommendations:

- o Agenda 5.1.2 should be “Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)”(*so that it could also include discussion on RFVR for vessels below 24 meters in length*)
- o Agenda 5.2.3 on “Presidential Taskforce on Combating IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud Action Plan” should be removed
- o Agenda 5.3.3 should be “Regional Policy Recommendations for Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients in Aquaculture Feed Formulations: Establishment of the

Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture” (deleting the Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture)

- Agenda 5.3.6 on “Strategic Plans for Fishery Resources Enhancement in the Southeast Asian Countries” should be removed
- Agenda 5.3.7 on “Regional Guidelines on Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region” should be removed
- Agenda 6.2 should be changed to “Directives on the Development of the ASEAN Common Fishery Policy”
- The following additional Agenda were proposed under Agenda 6 on “Other Matters”:
  - 6.5 Considerations on the Japanese Trust Fund VII
  - 6.6 Establishment of Regional Repository Center for Marine Fishes at MFRDMD

27. The draft Provisional Agenda of the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council accommodating the comments from the Meeting appears as **Annex 7**.

## **8. Information-related Matters**

28. The Meeting took note of important issues resulting from the discussions during the 17<sup>th</sup> Information Staff Program Meeting (**Annex 8**). While taking note of the regular/non-regular materials to be produced in 2017, the Departments agreed to provide inputs as required by the Secretariat as indicated in **Annex 8**. Specifically the Departments were requested to provide inputs for the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2016 and Information Compilation CD-ROM by the end of January 2017 for compilation and submission to the SEAFDEC Council Meeting.

29. With regards to SEAFDEC Calendar 2019 (to be produced by the end of 2017), the Meeting suggested that the theme should be on “Innovations towards the Sustainable Development Goals,” and that the innovations to be included should not be limited only to those developed by SEAFDEC but also available innovations that could be used by the region, such as the e-ACDS, RFVR, FSI (Fishing Site Identification System), fish passage, among others.

30. On the SEAFDEC organizational video, the Meeting suggested that the services of a professional narrator should be availed of, and that the Secretariat should communicate with AQD to obtain quotations for a professional narrator. MFRDMD also suggested that clips depicting tagging activities should also be includes in the part on MFRDMD activities.

31. In a related development, while noting that final selection of logo was made by the SEAFDEC Council during its 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2016, the Departments agreed to make use of the winning logo for promoting the 50<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Anniversary in 2017, and requested the Secretariat to send the electronic file of the logo to all Departments.

32. The Departments were also requested to consider enhancing the production/dissemination of information with the view of promoting the visibility of SEAFDEC, which could include:

- Departments to explore the possibility in applying incentive systems to encourage staff to publish more technical articles in scientific (and technical) journals in the future
- Important regional meetings should also include development/issuance of press releases for the media as appropriate
- Departments to provide electronic files of publications to be made downloadable through the SEAFDEC website
- Departments to consider establishing respective repositories of published articles to enhance accessibility of their technical information to the public

33. Although MFRD agreed to host the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Information Staff Program Meeting in 2017 in Singapore, some difficulties could be encountered if this is arranged at the Post-Harvest Technology Center (PHTC) considering that the Meeting room could be too small to accommodate all participants. The Meeting also noted that the accommodation would be quite costly (e.g. SGD 200-

300 per room), plus expenditures for conference facilities. In discussing the ways and means of reducing cost, the Meeting suggested that the Meeting schedule should avoid the Formula-1 race period scheduled in mid September 2017, participants should share accommodation rooms (between participants of the same gender), meeting period to be shortened which means no excursion or study tours, and participants to fly back to their respective home countries immediately after the Meeting without spending extra night in Singapore.

## **9. Other Matters**

- **Budget figure for SEAFDEC Departmental Programs**

34. The Meeting recalled the discussion during the ISP on the need for information on the budget spent for information activities in comparison with the total budget spent for the program. It was noted that such information had been provided by Departments for the FCG/ASSP Program, and it would be useful to also monitor the budget spent in comparison with outputs from activities under Departmental Programs. The Departments therefore agreed to provide the figures as required. In this connection, the Secretariat would modify the format of the program document of the SEAFDEC Departmental Programs in 2017 to incorporate this requirement.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation of SEAFEC Programs: Achievements of the FCG/ASSP Programs**

35. While recalling that the Secretariat circulated a table to the Departments for them to provide inputs on the achievements made under the FCG/ASSP Programs, of which the initial inputs had been compiled as shown in **Annex 9**, the Departments agreed to revise the information, particularly on the Achievements, to focus on “the achievements” and not on “the activities.”

36. Furthermore, the Secretariat also requested the electronic files of materials produced as outputs of the projects, which would be linked with the abovementioned form. However, considering that the Secretariat has already compiled the annual Information Compilation CD-ROM, the Secretariat would initially make use of the files that are already available and would communicate later on with the Departments if additional and/or updated files are required.