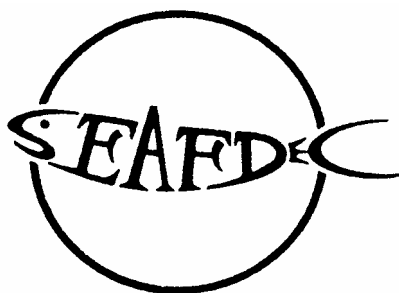


**REPORT OF
THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

Brunei Darussalam

18-21 April 2006



**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Report of the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center was prepared by the 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), and the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). The Document is distributed to SEAFDEC Member Countries and its Departments.

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**REPORT OF
THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**Brunei Darussalam
18-21 April 2006**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Brunei Darussalam, from 18 to 21 April 2006.

2. The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam together with their respective delegations. SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials also attended the Meeting. The Meeting was also attended by observers from the ASEAN Secretariat, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), and the Swedish Board of Fisheries (SBF). The representatives of the official auditors of SEAFDEC also attended the Meeting. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

1.1 Opening Ceremony

3. The Acting Director-General of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Fisheries, Vietnam, Dr. Vu Van Trieu, on behalf of the outgoing Chairman of the SEAFDEC Council, H.E. Mr. Luong Le Phuong, expressed his sincere gratitude to all the other Council Directors and to the Secretary-General for their support during his Chairmanship of the SEAFDEC Council. He wished SEAFDEC to further strengthen its role in sustainable fisheries development of the region. His speech appears as **Annex 2**.

4. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam, Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim, Director of the Department of Fisheries, on behalf of the host Government, welcomed the participants to the Meeting. She stressed the importance and contribution of SEAFDEC over the years to the Member Countries, including Brunei Darussalam, on the development of sustainable fisheries through various initiatives. She expressed her foresight to the enhanced contribution of SEAFDEC to the region. Her welcome remarks appear as **Annex 3**.

5. The Acting Minister of Industry & Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Haji Hamdillah bin Haji Abdul Wahab, as the guest of honor, highlighted the importance of fisheries sector for the Southeast Asian region and Brunei Darussalam. He underlined the need for closer regional cooperation to achieve sustainable fisheries development through SEAFDEC. With the recent uncertain financial situation of SEAFDEC, he looked forward to the continuing support of the Government of Japan and other Member Countries, so that SEAFDEC could continue to fulfill its mandate.

After his message, which appears as **Annex 4**, he declared the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Council open.

6. In conjunction with the opening ceremony, Dato Haji Hamdillah bin Haji Abdul Wahab also officiated the official launching of the book on “Sharks and Rays of Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam”.

1.2 Election of the Chairman

7. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam, Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim, was unanimously elected as the in-coming Chairman of the SEAFDEC Council.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

8. The Council adopted the Agenda of the Meeting, which appears as **Annex 5**.

II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9. The Council welcomed Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim as the new Chairman of the SEAFDEC Council, and expressed appreciation to the Council Director for Vietnam for his Chairmanship and contribution to SEAFDEC during the year 2005. The Council also welcomed the new members of the SEAFDEC Council and Departments presented at the Meeting, namely Dr. Chua Sin Bin, the Council Director for Singapore; Dr. Somying Piumsombun, the Alternate Council Director for Thailand; and Mr. Hideiki Tsubata, Deputy Secretary-General and concurrently the Training Department Deputy Chief. The Council also approved the reappointment of Mr. Raja Mohd. Noordin bin Raja Omar, as the Chief of Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD); and the appointment of Dr. Joebert Toledo, as the new Chief of Aquaculture Department (AQD).

10. The Council acknowledged with appreciation the accomplishments of SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments made during the year 2005 as presented by the Secretary-General, including the completion of the Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region implemented in collaboration with Member Countries from 2002 to 2005, and the cooperation with other international/regional organizations during the year. The Council then approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2005 for publication and dissemination.

III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

11. The Council took note of the outcomes of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Program Committee (**Annex 6**) which was held from 7 to 9 December 2005 in Thailand, as presented by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Program Committee. The Council then approved the programs implemented in 2005 and the

proposed programs for 2006, as well as the recommendations made at the Program Committee Meeting for future implementation.

IV. REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG)

12. The Council took note of the results and endorsed the recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) (**Annex 7**), which was held on 17 April 2006 in Brunei Darussalam, as presented by Mr. Hla Win, on behalf of the ASEAN Co-Chairman of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON SEAFDEC IMPORTANT ISSUES

5.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

13. The Council endorsed the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) (**Annex 8**) as proposed during the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG. The ASSP was prepared based on the directives given at the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, the 27th Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) (29 September 2005, the Philippines), and the Meeting of SEAFDEC Special Council (14-15 November 2005, Thailand), accommodating the recommendations made at the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fish Trade Related Issues (20-22 February 2006, Thailand).

14. The Meeting noted that the ASEAN Secretariat, in close coordination with SEAFDEC Secretariat, would submit the ASSP proposal including the Term of Reference as well as Scope and Cooperation Mechanism to the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) for endorsement.

5.2 International Fish Trade Related Issues and Anti-Fisheries Campaigns

15. The Council was informed of the international fish trade-related issues and anti-fisheries campaign as discussed in respective regional/international fora (**Annex 9**). The issues include fisheries subsidies, concerned aquatic species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), MoU between FAO-CITES, marine protected areas on the high seas, moratorium on the high seas bottom trawling, quality and safety of fish and fishery products, traceability of fishery products, and eco-labelling of fish and fishery products.

16. The Council Director for Japan emphasized the importance for Member Countries in the region to carefully tackle the concerned issues, as these would greatly influence fisheries activities in the Southeast Asian region. In addition, he also expressed the position of Japan on the respective issues as follows:

- **Fisheries Subsidies**

Japan strongly opposed the proposal of a general ban on fisheries subsidies, as this may hinder the constructive development of the fishery sector. Japan also requested other Member Countries to actively monitor the issue and participate in the relevant World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

- **CITES Issues**

Japan supported the establishment of a MoU between CITES and FAO. As FAO is considered as the technical competent agency for the management of commercial aquatic species, any CITES listing exercises should take into account technical advice of FAO. Japan also requested Member Countries to carefully study the new draft MoU between FAO and CITES. In addition, Japan would also oppose the listing of two shark species (to be proposed by Germany during the next Conference of Parties (COP) of CITES) as they should be managed by FAO or the relevant regional fisheries management organizations, and requested other Member Countries to support the Japan's position.

- **Sea Turtles**

Japan requested SEAFDEC to actively continue its initiatives on the conservation and management of sea turtles as mishandling of the issues might have an impact on fishing including the prohibition of longline fisheries.

- **Moratorium on High Seas Bottom Trawling**

Japan opposed the prohibition of high seas bottom trawling proposed at the United Nations (UN), and requested other SEAFDEC Member Countries to coordinate with their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the position of Japan at the upcoming UN Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea in June 2006.

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

17. The representative from ASEAN Secretariat expressed his gratitude for the close cooperation between ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC in the implementation of programs that contribute to sustainable development of fisheries in the region. He informed the Meeting that cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC, with support from the Japanese Government, has been acknowledged and supported by the ASEAN Ministers during the 26th AMAF. To further strengthen the cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC, and to support future development of ASEAN common/coordinated position to be raised at the international fora, ASEAN Secretariat would coordinate with SEAFDEC Secretariat and submit the ASSP to the forthcoming meetings of ASWGF, Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)-AMAF and AMAF for consideration and endorsement. His statement appears as **Annex 10**.

18. The representative from FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific highlighted the priority areas which are currently undertaken by his organization. These include: 1) Tsunami rehabilitation activities; 2) projects under the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Eco-system (BOB-LME) program including relevant transboundary issues; and 3) Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) focusing on reforming fisheries and aquaculture in Asia-Pacific region, seafood quality and safety, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. FAO has established partnership and collaborated with various regional/international fisheries-related organizations to share experience and knowledge; and looked forward to close cooperation with SEAFDEC.

19. The representative from the Swedish Board on Fisheries informed the Council of the close cooperation with SEAFDEC during the past 2 years on human resource development for fisheries management to support responsible fisheries. The support has been provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

through the SBF. Although the existing cooperation would end in 2006, collaboration with SEAFDEC could be extended with potential priority areas being tsunami rehabilitation activities, balancing fishing capacity and fishery resources, fishery refugia, and eco-labeling. Her statement appears as **Annex 11**.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

20. The Council Director for Japan informed the Meeting of the forthcoming Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to be organized from 22-26 January 2007 in Japan with technical support from FAO. The Meeting is envisaged to discuss global issues that require coordination among various RFMOs, and strengthen the future relationship among the RFMOs. Although the invitation to the Meeting would be directly extended by the respective RFMO, Japan urged other concerned Member Countries and the Secretariat to actively participate in the Meeting.

21. The Council Director for Thailand extended his invitation to the Council Directors and delegates of the Member Countries to participate in the Thai Fish Expo 2006, which will be held from 24-27 June 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Expo is organized to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Accession to the Throne of His Majesty the King of Thailand and the 80th Anniversary of the establishment of Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand. The Expo comprises exhibitions from government/private sectors and international/regional organizations, as well as technical conferences on various fisheries aspects.

22. The Secretary-General informed the Council of a 2-day high-level conference on impact of international fisheries issues to be held in Bangkok, from 24 to 25 June 2006 in conjunction with the Thai Fish Expo 2006. He also extended his invitation to the Council Directors to participate in the above conference, of which the invitation letter with more detailed information would be sent to all the Council Directors.

VIII. SEAFDEC FUTURE OPERATION

8.1 Overview of Pre-requisites and Policy Directions

23. The Council took note of the proposal on SEAFDEC Future Operation (**Annex 12**), which has been prepared in response to SEAFDEC financial situation, the directive given at the SEAFDEC Special Council Meeting (14-16 November, 2005) and the subsequent recommendations made at the National Coordinators' Meeting (6 December 2005).

8.2 Host Countries Responsibility on the Departments and Minimum Regular Contribution

24. With regards to funding of SEAFDEC Departments, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand stated that the operating costs of the Departments were fully borne by the Government of their respective countries. Singapore reiterated its continued support for Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) based on existing terms and conditions

as stipulated in Resolution 2 of the Inaugural Meeting of SEAFDEC Council on the operation of MFRD. Specifically, Singapore would contribute one third of the running costs of MFRD subject to a cap of US\$ 40,000 per year (**Annex 13**). This excludes Singapore's contribution in kind in providing land, building, professional and other staff at MFRD at a cost exceeding US\$1,000,000. Subsequent updating of the co-share funding arrangement between Singapore and Japan for the operation of MFRD was provided in Chapter XX of the 1966-2001 SEAFDEC Basic Documents (**Annex 14**). While carrying out its commitment fully in support of the operation of MFRD, Singapore called for its counterpart to fulfill its commitment. In this connection, the Council suggested that any amendment to be made to the Resolution on funding the operation of MFRD should be done through an appropriate official channel.

25. With regards to the Regular Contribution from the Japanese Government in the year 2007, the Council Director for Japan informed the Council that Japan would make utmost effort to secure the contribution of US\$ 250,000 in accordance with the discussion at the National Coordinator Meeting held in November 2005. This is on the premise that SEAFDEC would strengthen its capacity and activities to tackle international-related issues. Japan also expressed concern that this figure had been changed to US\$ 280,000 in the new proposal prepared by the Secretariat. Noting that other Member Countries would consider the new proposal, Japan would exert the effort to increase the regular funding support to US\$ 280,000.

26. The Council Director for Japan also informed the Meeting that the responsibility to secure Japanese regular contribution to SEAFDEC for the year 2007 and onward would be shifted from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Fisheries Agency.

27. Japan agreed to issue an official letter signed by the Council Director for Japan to inform ASEAN Member Countries of the situation in Japan regarding changes in the funding support for SEAFDEC. The letter will explain the shift of responsibility in providing regular contribution from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to the Fisheries Agency in Japan. The letter will also seek support from Host Countries to take full responsibility of the Department and from Member Countries to consider making annual Minimum Regular Contribution as proposed by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC in **Annex 15**.

28. Considering the important role and contribution of SEAFDEC for fisheries development in the region, all ASEAN Member Countries expressed support for SEAFDEC to continue its function as a regional organization. On receiving the official letter from Japan, all ASEAN Member Countries will consider the matter and undertake appropriate action with regard to seeking funding support for the operation of SEAFDEC.

29. The Council agreed that all ASEAN Member Countries would inform the Secretariat on the result of the above consultation in response to the letter from Japan by August 2006. The Secretariat will then compile the response and will inform the Member Countries and Departments for them to make future plan.

30. The Council Director for Vietnam informed the Council that Vietnam's Foreign Minister had written to his counterpart in Japan requesting support including sufficient financial contribution to SEAFDEC on behalf of all ASEAN Member Countries. The

Council was also informed that various Ministers and high officials from other ASEAN Member Countries had also written to their counterparts in Japan seeking similar support for SEAFDEC. The Council took note that Japan would provide appropriate replies to the letters after due consultation back in Tokyo.

8.3 Enhancing Technical Cooperation and Arrangement for Non-traditional Sources of Fund

31. While supporting the proposal made by the Secretariat in Enhancing Technical Cooperation and Arrangement for Non-traditional Sources of Fund, the Council expressed concerns that the sourcing of non-traditional source of fund should take into consideration the priority and needs of the Member Countries and relevant provisions stipulated in the Agreement Establishing the Center.

32. The Council requested the Secretariat to formulate policy framework and protocols on enhancing technical cooperation and arrangement for non-traditional sources of fund, taking into consideration the following:

- Priority and agenda of donor agency consistent or coincide with the mandate, objectives and priorities of SEAFDEC;
- Close consultation between the Departments, the Member Countries and the Secretariat; and
- Inclusion of agency and personnel cost into budget planning.

8.4 Areas for Immediate Improvement of SEAFDEC Operation

8.4.1 Streamlining SEAFDEC Annual Meetings

33. In response to the proposal made by the Secretariat on the streamlining of SEAFDEC annual meetings, the Council agreed that the future meetings of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG should be conducted back-to-back with meetings of the Program Committee. The Council also suggested that future annual Council meetings should be conducted in a more concise manner with shorter duration.

34. The Council suggested that the Secretariat reformulate the structure and arrangement of future meetings of the Program Committee, including involvement of international/regional organizations and donor agencies. The proposed reformulation will be submitted to the next PCM, for subsequent consideration by the Council at its next meeting.

35. With regards to the timing of the PCM which is organized in December, the Council Director for Cambodia expressed the difficulty of his country to secure budget required for implementation of cost-sharing programs including the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for fishery resources survey. He suggested that the PCM be convened before December.

8.4.2 Improving SEAFDEC information tools and activities for enhancing visibility and communication

36. The Council endorsed the Information Strategies for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication (**Annex 16**) which is envisaged to streamline information activities in a more cost-effective manner, and enhance visibility of the organization. In addition, the Council suggested that the clear objectives and performance indicators for enhancing visibility and profile of SEAFDEC should be further elaborated.

8.4.3 Adjustment of Program on Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP)

37. The Council expressed appreciation on the role of WGRFP and the benefits derived by the Member Countries from such program in terms of human resource development. However, in response to the current tight financial situation, the Council supported the proposal made by the Secretariat to convert the Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) into SEAFDEC Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN). Considering the effectiveness of the network, the Council also supported the proposal that the network's members to be stationed at the Secretariat subject to availability of funds or otherwise appointment of virtual members. The virtual member will be based in the Member Countries working through e-mail network communication.

38. The Council requested the Secretariat to develop the framework, term of reference for the Regional Fisheries Policy Network for further consideration by Member Countries.

39. The Council took note with appreciation the possible support from Sida to representatives from countries involved in the Sida supported projects including that on tsunami rehabilitation.

8.4.4 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels

40. The Council was informed that in the immediate future, Thailand agreed to provide support for the maintenance and operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC. However, the Training Department will further consult with Thailand on the appropriate medium- and long-term solutions for the M.V. SEAFDEC e.g. sourcing funds for its operation, the possible transfer of the vessel to other institution, or disposal of the vessel. It was also noted that any measure for M.V. SEAFDEC should be taken in consultation with the Japanese Government as the vessel was provided by Japan and certain administrative procedures are required.

8.4.5 Implementation of Regional Programs by the Secretariat and the Departments

41. The Council agreed that in order to reduce cost and enhance impacts of program implementation and benefit to Member Countries, implementation of regional programs should be continued in a cost-effective manner. The Council supported the implementation of cost-sharing policy, which should be continued. The Council also suggested that any other measures to minimize the operation cost of the Center should also be considered.

8.5 SEAFDEC Long-term Improvement and Challenges

42. The Council agreed with the proposal on SEAFDEC Long-term Improvement, including revisioning of SEAFDEC future role and mandate, enhancing international visibility of SEAFDEC, improving SEAFDEC programming exercises, and promoting closer partnership with ASEAN in areas of mutual interests.

IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

9.1 Collaboration Arrangement between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations

43. The Council was informed of the establishment of collaboration arrangements between SEAFDEC and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and National Fisheries University of Japan (NFU) made in the year 2005 in accordance with the directives given at the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council; as well as the collaboration with the Hokkaido University made in 2006 (**Annex 17**).

9.2 Other Management Matters

44. The Council endorsed the new TD Strategic Plan (**Annex 18**), formulated in response to the recent financial situation, and taking into account the 1998 SEAFDEC Strategic Plan, the other subsequent regional fisheries policy, and the current regional fisheries situation.

X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Adoption of Auditor's Financial Report for 2004

45. In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2(ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council endorsed the audited consolidated financial statement of the Center for the year ended 31 December 2004 including that of the Secretariat and the four Departments for the year 2004 (**Annex 19**) as audited by the Center's official auditors.

46. The Council concurred with the request made by the Council Director for Singapore to change the audit firm for MFRD from KPMG to the firm used by the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore for its external audit in order to reduce cost for auditing. In this connection, the Council requested the Secretariat to work with Singapore for the above arrangement.

10.2 Proposed Budgetary Requirement for 2007

47. The Council took note of the reports on the estimated contributions from the Member Countries and other sources of funds to the Center as well as estimated expenditures of the Center for the year 2005, 2006, and 2007, respectively. The Council also took note of the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for 2007 and asked the Secretariat and the Departments to finalize the actual budget for submission to the Member Countries for funding.

XI. LAUNCHING OF THE “YEAR OF TURTLE 2006”

48. The Council Directors and delegates from Member Countries took part in the launching of the “Year of Turtle 2006, which was organized in conjunction with the 38th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council. The ceremony was officiated by Yang Mulia Tuan Haji Jemat Bin Haji Ampal, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam. The launching ceremony is envisaged to be an important event to signify the achievement of all the Member Countries and SEAFDEC in the conservation and management of sea turtles in the region.

XII. CONCLUDING MATTERS

12.1 Date and Venue of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Council

49. In considering the date and venue of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Council, the Council Director for Cambodia informed the Council that her Government would accept the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in Cambodia in the year 2007.

50. The Council expressed appreciation of the offer to host the next Council Meeting in Cambodia, and requested the Secretary-General to discuss this further with the Council Director for the finalization of the exact date and venue.

12.2 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

51. The Council Director for Singapore on behalf of the Council Directors expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Brunei Darussalam for hosting the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Council. The Council also thanked the Chairman for the effective conduct of the Meeting as well as the staff of the Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam for their hospitality and efficient arrangements of the Meeting.

12.3 Adoption of the Report

52. The Council adopted the Report of the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Council and the Press Statement (**Annex 20**) on the results of the Meeting on 21 April 2006.

XIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

53. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the Council Directors and their delegations as well as Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Chiefs of Departments and SEAFDEC staff for their support and cooperation during the Meeting. He therefore declared the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Council closed.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

STATEMENT

*By Dr. Vu Van Trieu
Alternate Council Director for Vietnam
Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Fisheries*

Your Excellencies Dato Pakuda Awang Haji Hamdillah bin Haji Abdul Wahab, Acting Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam Distinguished Council and Alternate Directors, the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, Department Chiefs including their staff, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to wish you a very good morning and to welcome all of you to this Opening Ceremony of the 38th Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center here in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. It is indeed a great honor for us to have a message from his Excellency, Mr. Luong Le Phuong to grace this opening ceremony.

Last year, the Thirty-Seventh Council Director Meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. During this Council Meeting, we discussed important policy issues that would affect the future of SEAFDEC and how effectively we would continue to pursue our institutional mandate and tackle international issues affecting the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. This is based on the consideration of the benefits to fisheries in our countries, while taking into account the long-term sustainability of SEAFDEC during the financial constraints that we are currently facing. The focus issues are for examples: Strengthening of Cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC; Initiatives related to the Tsunami Disaster, in particular the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategy on Rehabilitation of Fisheries of Coastal Community for the Tsunami Affected Areas, in order to alleviate such situation and ensure effective and appropriate distribution of the assistance through coordination and cooperation among the national, regional and international efforts; Review of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action; the Second phase of the Special 5-year Program (2006-2010); and Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility, etc.

During the past decades, SEAFDEC has been actively involved in promoting sustainable fisheries in the ASEAN region. While recognizing the growing demand for fish and fishery products, and the need to ease the pressure on aquatic environment and fisheries resources to ensure sustainable fish supplies in the ASEAN Region, the Member Countries and SEAFDEC are determined in pursuing development agent especially in the field of fisheries in order to reverse the plight and uplift the economic and social status of the less fortunate people in the Southeast Asia. We hope that in the future, SEAFDEC will further continue strengthen its role in the region with a view to sustainable fisheries development for the member countries.

As an outgoing Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for the support and cooperation extended during the 2005-2006 SEAFDEC year.

Once again, allow me to welcome all the delegated and I am looking forward to a fruitful Council Meeting.

Thank you very much and good day to you all.

WELCOME STATEMENT

*By Hajah Hasnah Ibrahim,
Director of the Department of Fisheries,
SEAFDEC Council Director for Brunei Darussalam*

Yang Mulia, Dato Haji Hamdillah bin Haji Abdul Wahab,
Acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources,
Permanent Secretaries,
Your Excellencies Ambassador and High Commissioners,
SEAFDEC Council Directors,
Secretary General,
Head of Departments, Directors and Senior Officials,
Distinguished guests and delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Rahim,
Assalammu alaikum warahmatullah hi Taala wabarkatuh
And very good morning.

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the organizing Committee, to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Dato Haji Hamdillah bin Haji Abdul Wahab, the Acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources for consenting to graciously officiating the opening of the 38th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

On behalf of the organizing committee too, I would like to welcome our distinguished Council Directors of SEAFDEC, country representatives and other delegates from related institutions to Brunei Darussalam. We are indeed honored to host this 38th Meeting of the Council Directors here in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam has been a member of SEAFDEC since 1995. Through the years of membership with SEAFDEC, Brunei Darussalam has benefited greatly in a wide spectrum of activities, especially in the areas of capture fisheries management, seafood processing and human resources development.

It is therefore envisaged that this meeting of SEAFDEC Council will provide a solid foundation for discussion on future operations and directions of SEAFDEC, which has been mandated to promote sustainable fisheries development in the region. With the hard work and cooperation of our colleagues, we look forward to successful conclusions of the meeting.

It is to be hoped that for the year ahead, the contribution of SEAFDEC to the region will be further enhanced and heightened, with many successful endeavors and achievements.

Finally, once again I would like to thank our guest of honour for kindly consenting to grace this ceremony and our distinguished guests for their presence here this morning. On behalf of the Department of Fisheries and SEAFDEC Secretariat, I would like to

take this opportunity, to record our thanks and appreciation to the Departments and agencies that have given their assistance and support for the preparation of this meeting. Lastly, but not the least, I would also like to express our special thanks to Radio Television Brunei and other media for the coverage of the events

Wabillahitaufik wal hidayah Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Thank you and good day.

OPENING ADDRESS

*By the Guest of Honour
Dato Hamdillah bin Haji Abdul Wahab
Acting Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam*

Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim, the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee;
Permanent Secretaries;
Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;
The Chairman of the SEAFDEC Council;
Honorable SEAFDEC Council Directors;
SEAFDEC Secretary-General;
Head of Departments, Director and senior officials;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Taala Wabarkatuh and a very good morning to you all.

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, I would like to offer our most sincere welcome to all of you here to Brunei Darussalam for the 38th Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to officiate this event today. I understand that this will be the second time that Brunei Darussalam has the honour to host this meeting; the first being held in 1998, also in our Capital City.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brunei Darussalam has reached a cross road and the fisheries sector has been identified as one of the sectors that can contribute to the sustainable economic diversification agenda. As such, the Government through Fisheries Department is embarking on a series of challenging initiatives to accelerate the development of the fisheries sector and our young marine eco-tourism sector. I will not deal with the marine eco-tourism sector here although I am aware of its huge potential as demonstrated by the Great Barrier in Australia. I was told this by my Australian Colleague at the Bali APEC Ministerial Meeting last year that it was 4 to 5 times larger revenue earner.

For Brunei Darussalam, the Fisheries industry is fast developing, especially after the declaration of the 200 nautical miles Brunei Fishery Limits and the Exclusive Economic Zone. Fisheries growth has been further enhanced with the development of aquaculture and seafood processing industry. In 2005, the growth output from the fisheries industry is valued about just under \$100 million. Although this value might be small when compared to other SEAFDEC member countries, it also means to us that there is still a vast opportunity for fisheries development and investment. Currently Brunei Darussalam still imports about 40% of its seafood products requirement. It is estimated

that the industry has a potential to reach a value of \$400 million by the year 2023, an average growth of 17% per annum.

As you all know just too well, SEAFDEC is an intergovernmental body established as a regional treaty organization on 28 December 1967 with Japan, Singapore and Thailand, followed a month later by the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam with the same Objective: to develop fisheries potential of the region by rational and sustainable utilization of the resources for providing food security to the people through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities.

Since her establishment, I am happy to note that SEAFDEC is now widely recognized for its significant contributions to the ASEAN region through its role of developing and promoting various aspects of fisheries in a focused, dedicated and practical manner. I am advised that the continuing success of SEAFDEC in pursuing its goals is also attributed to the Government of Japan. As the world leading fishing nation, Japan has been a very valuable and generous donor member contributing financial resources, expertise and technology to SEAFDEC. At this opportune time, I, on behalf of ASEAN governments, would like to recognize and thank the Government of Japan for all its immeasurable contributions.

Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

However, after 38 years of existence, SEAFDEC has now come to a crossroad. The future operation of SEAFDEC has now come to a crossroad. The future operation of SEAFDEC is uncertain due to its limited funding and increasing demands for its resources. This will affect how effectively SEAFDEC will continue to pursue the institutional mandate and tackle international issue affecting the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. This meeting therefore is a crucial one, where members have to make tough but important decisions to charter the Future Roadmap and develop necessary course of actions to overcome these challenges.

I look forward to hear about your proposed Course of Action which I hope will sustain the relevance of SEAFDEC, as an organization that continues to make a difference in the region.

The Business Case is compelling. The fisheries sector is of considerable importance to most countries in the South-East Asian region in securing food and better livelihood for the Future of Our Citizens.

Brunei Darussalam attaches great importance to close regional cooperation. As a newer member of SEAFDEC since 1995, Brunei Darussalam has benefited greatly by joining SEAFDEC, especially in the areas of capture fisheries management, seafood processing and human resources development. Last year, the Fisheries Department has engaged the services of M.V. SEAFDEC 2, to carry out surveys of our fisheries resources in the deeper waters, which are very important in developing future opportunities in those areas.

Brunei Darussalam wishes to see the continuing existence of SEAFDEC to support and implement various programs including sustainable fisheries development for food

security in the ASEAN region. As such, Brunei Darussalam is looking forward to the continuing support of the Government of Japan and other member countries and associated organizations to SEAFDEC. I believe that no regional organization can operate effectively if not for the support and cooperation among all member countries in pursuing common goals in ensuring that the development of the fishery sector is undertaken to best serve the priorities and needs of all the member countries and the region as a whole.

A case for a deeper and more concerted effort is also compelling for 3 other reasons.

Firstly, According to FAO, world capture fisheries production in 2000 is 95.5 million tones and this figure is reduced to 93.2 million tones in 2002. We know that the resources of marine fish from the sea is now going down rapidly due to over fishing, illegal fishing and nursery and adult habitats being damaged by pollution, destructive fishing practices and other environmental degradation impact.

Brunei as a small nation, doesn't escape the problems that other big nations face in the management of their fisheries resources. But ours is a larger problem. Because we have limited areas and limited resources, it is therefore imperative that we protect these resources. In this regard, I would like to call on for SEAFDEC to engage in discussion and join forces with international organizations like APEC to look into ways and means to suppress effectively these illegal practices.

My 2nd Compelling Reason relates to the rapid change in world economy resulting in evolution of new trends, such as new forms of trade controls, notably SPS measures, HACCP, shrimp embargo and eco-labeling. The antidumping issues continue to be of concern to members of SEAFDEC especially Thailand and Vietnam.

I am happy to note that SEAFDEC has concentrated more effort and emphasis on these global issues and has implemented several projects towards addressing them.

But we need to establish stronger linkages and integration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC and to walk the journey in a common direction with a common agenda in tackling fisheries issues. With this strength and common purpose, ASEAN will be able to implement projects and build institutional capacity so that we can all address our shared problems in ways appropriate to our different abilities. This will also strengthen SEAFDEC's position and allow it to take part in a program designed to deliver a coordinated, regional approach to fisheries development.

My final compelling Reason relates to a more Energetic Outreach Program.

I am pleased to note that SEAFDEC has collaborated very well to advance our common Agenda with FAO, NACA and Sida and with other institutions worldwide... the Best in Our Business. This is very commendable and SEAFDEC need to continue this engagement process, build awareness about the opportunity for synergy and increase Public Visibility of SEAFDEC in the world at the same time, through commercial, regulatory, and academic partnerships.

At this juncture, I would like to commend SEAFDEC for taking the initiatives relating to the Tsunami Disaster, in particular the project proposal on the ASEAN Strategy on

Rehabilitation of Fisheries Coastal community fore the Tsunami affected areas. It is timely in order to alleviate such situation and ensure effective and appropriate distribution of the assistance through coordination and cooperation among the national, regional and international efforts. It has been almost one and half years since the Tsunami struck and even at this time, those affected still feel the pain of the loss of loved ones. I felt it is still opportune for me to convey our heartfelt condolences to all affected especially the government of Indonesia and the people of Aceh. The Tsunami's tragedy shook the world and stirred deep feeling of loss in Brunei. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam went to the affected area to see for himself the extent of devastation. Brunei Darussalam has raised funds, sent in kind contribution and dispatched medical teams to the affected areas.

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was in formed that after the opening ceremony, there is also going to be the launching of a book entitled “Sharks and Rays of Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam”. I understand this is the outcome of a six year comprehensive study of elasmobranch from estuaries, coastal areas, Exclusive Economic Zones and also the fresh water bodies of Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. I believe this joint effort is indeed a mark of a great partnership and most relevant since both neighboring countries share common boundaries, the same kind of fisheries resources and Insha Allah a Common Objective.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Department of Fisheries of Brunei Darussalam and SEAFDEC Secretariat for organizing this meeting and to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the organizing committee for inviting me to be the Guest of Honour this meeting.

While I understand that you will have some tough deliberations to go through but I, as Chairman of the Brunei Tourism Board, hope that you all will have some spare moments to appreciate some of our new marine tourism places of interest and experience also Brunei Darussalam, the Green Heart of Borneo and our rich heritage... our tropical rainforest.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, with the Kalimah Bimillah Hirahman Hirahim, it is my pleasure to declare the 38th Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center officially open.

Wabillahitaufig wal hidayah Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh. Thank you and Wassalam.

AGENDA

- Agenda 1** Procedural Matters
- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting
 - 1.2 Election of Chairman
 - 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting
- Agenda 2** Report of the Secretary-General
- Agenda 3** Note of the Chairman of the SEAFDEC Program Committee on the Result of the Twenty-eighth Meeting
- Agenda 4** Note of the Chairman of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group of the Result of the Eighth Meeting
- Agenda 5** Policy Consideration on Important Issues
- 5.3 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership
 - 5.4 International Fish Trade Related Issues and Anti-Fisheries Campaigns
- Agenda 6** Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations and Non-member Governments
- Agenda 7** Other Matters
- Agenda 8** (Closed Session) SEAFDEC Future Operation
- 8.1 Overview of Pre-requisites and Policy Directions
 - 8.2 Host Countries Responsibility on the Departments and Minimum Regular Contribution
 - 8.3 Enhancing Technical Cooperation and Arrangement for Non-traditional Sources of Fund
 - 8.4 Areas for Immediate Improvement of SEAFDEC Operation
 - Streamlining SEAFDEC Annual Meetings
 - Improving SEAFDEC information tools and activities for enhancing visibility and communication
 - Adjustment of Program on Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP)
 - Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels
 - Implementation of Regional Programs by the Secretariat and the Departments
 - 8.5 SEAFDEC Long-term Improvement and Challenges
- Agenda 9** (Closed Session) Management of the Center
- 9.1 Collaboration Arrangement between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations
 - 9.2 Other Management Matters
 - Progress of the Reformulation of Training Department Strategic Plan

Agenda 10 (Closed Session) Financial Matters

- 10.1 Adoption of Auditor's Financial Report for 2004
- 10.2 Proposed Budgetary Requirement for 2007
- 10.3 Other Financial Matters

Agenda 11 Concluding Matters

- 11.1 Date and Venue of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Council
- 11.2 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government
- 11.3 Adoption of the Report

Agenda 12 Closing of the Meeting

Annex 6

**NOTE OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MEETING ON THE RESULT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHT MEETING**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-eight Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 7 to 9 December 2005 and hosted by the Training Department (TD).

2. The Meeting was attended by the National Coordinators from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam as members of the Program Committee, together with their respective delegations. The Meeting was also attended by Secretary General, Deputy Secretary-General Department Chief, and Deputy Chief as ex-officio members, officers for the Secretariat and the Departments and the representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP).

II. PROGRAM MATTERS

3. SEAFDEC Programs submitted to the Committee can be categorized into two categories - Departmental Programs and Programs under ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism.

2.1 Progress and Achievements of Program Implementation for the Year 2005

4. For the year 2005, SEAFDEC programs of activity were developed and implemented based on the frameworks of SEAFDEC Strategic Plan and the Resolution and Plan of Action concluded at the 2001 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference. The major achievement was the completion of the Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region (2002-2005). The programs, as endorsed by the 27th Meeting of the Program Committee and subsequently approved by the 37th Meeting of the Council, are listed as **Appendix 1**.

2.1.1 Departmental Programs

5. In 2005, besides overall coordination of the implementation of SEAFDEC regional programs with the Member Countries and the Departments, the Secretariat, Training Department and Aquaculture Department conducted 6 departmental programs of which progress and major achievements are as follows:

6. **Center-wide Information Network Program** focused on promoting activities, achievement and visibility of the Center, as well as provide information to support fisheries management and policy formulation.

7. **Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WFRFP) Program**, the major task of the WGRFP according to its terms of reference was emphasized in the areas of technical contribution for the prioritized regional programs on the Regionalization of

the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF) particularly in Fish Trade and Environment. Major achievements are also compilation for the publication on Sharks in Southeast Asia, provision of technical inputs for meetings of SEAFDEC Council and Program Committee, ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG, and Regional Consortium (CONSRN) on Tsunami Rehabilitation. The Working Group members played a vital role in communicating with their respective country regarding the preparation of related technical meeting, monitoring of the follow-up activities, which are to be undertaken by SEAFDEC in collaboration with ASEAN Member Countries, and promoting SEAFDEC visibility.

8. **Information and Communications Technology**, apart from the development of the TD homepage under this program, a promotional leaflet about TD homepage was distributed during the International Symposium to encourage people to visit and use the website and also other TD activities and output were distributed to the public under this program.

9. **Program on Broodstock Management and Seed Quality Improvement of Cultured Species** addressed problem areas related to broodstock management, genetic improvement, and improvement of hatchery production technologies of major cultured species.

10. **Program on the Development of Responsible and Sustainable Aquaculture Technologies** aimed to develop sustainable aquaculture technologies with minimum impact on the ecosystems by promoting efficient aquaculture systems and designs for maximum sustainable productivity.

2.1.2 Programs under ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism

11. SEAFDEC programs of activity under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism can be grouped in to four categories as follows:

- Programs Related to Fisheries Management;
- Programs Related to Aquaculture;
- Programs Related to Fishery Post-harvest and Processing including Quality and Safety Aspects; and
- Programs Related to Trade and Environmental Related Issues.

- **Programs Related to Fisheries Management**

12. There are 10 programs/projects under this grouping as follows;

- Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- Toward Decentralized Management for Sustainable Fisheries in the ASEAN Region;
- Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms;
- Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices;
- Resource Enhancement;
- Identification of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region;
- Information Gathering for Capture Inland Fisheries in ASEAN Countries;

- Harvesting of Under-exploited Resource;
- Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea; and
- Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty.

13. Under this grouping, the programs aimed to strengthen human capacity for sustainable utilization and enhancement of fishery resources and also promote right-based fisheries management in the region. Main activities under this grouping included pilot projects, technical meetings and consultations, formulation regional guidelines, and publication and dissemination of the proceedings, and reports.

- **Programs Related to Aquaculture**

14. There are 3 programs/projects under this grouping as follows:

- Aquaculture for Rural Development;
- Supply of Good Quality Seeds; and
- Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals.

It should be however noted that AQD also completed two programs that were spilled over from 2004, namely: (1) Promotion of Mangrove-Friendly Aquaculture in Southeast Asian Countries: Mangrove-Friendly Shrimp Culture Project; and (2) Regional Fish Disease Project on the Development of Fish Diseases Inspection Methodologies for Artificially-Bred Seeds.

15. Under this grouping, main activities implemented in 2005 included (1) technical assistance in pilot demonstration and verification to adapt, verify and promote existing technologies on various species for sustainable aquaculture development; (2) research to refine technologies that have been developed by some institutions in the region for adoption by certain countries; (3) training to promote transfer of specific technologies; and (4) promotion of technologies through massive information dissemination to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences on specific technologies for the benefit of the fisherfolk in the region.

- **Programs Related to Fishery Post-harvest and Processing including Quality and Safety Aspects**

16. There are 3 programs under this grouping as follows:

- Maximizing the Utilization of Fish Catch;
- Fish Quality and Safety Management Systems; and
- Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish and Fish Products and the Environment such as Fishing Ground and Aquaculture Field.

17. Under this grouping, MFRD conducted the training, technical seminar related to the issues. There were also some activities conducted at project sites. Moreover, the publications were produced and serve as useful resource materials for officers who involved in product development and processing activities and extension services. For the project Fish Quality and Safety Management Systems, MFRD continued to assist the key regional laboratories in the preparation of their Laboratory Quality Management Manual and implementation of Good Laboratory Practices through training and providing technical assistance and advises.

- **Programs Related to Trade and Environmental Related Issues**

18. Under this grouping, regional consultations were organized with the aim to discuss issues and linkages between international fish trade and sustainable development of fisheries. A number of fora also discussed strategies and directions to ensure future sustainable utilization of fishery resources with the concern on some endangered species including sea turtles, sharks and sea cucumbers through appropriate management based on scientific evidence. There were 3 programs under this grouping as follows:

- Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues;
- Environmental Related Task in Southeast Asia; and
- Research and Development (R&D) on Stock Enhancement of Threatened Species under International Concerned (In collaboration with MFRDMD and TD).

2.2 Proposed Programs of Activities for the Year 2006

19. For the year 2006, SEAFDEC programs of activity are still based on the frameworks of SEAFDEC Strategic Plan and the Resolution and Plan of Action concluded at the 2001 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference. The programs and vessel operation plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2, as endorsed by the 28th Meeting of the Program Committee, are listed as **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**, respectively. In response to the unclear financial situation, the Committee strongly suggested allocation of resources should be given to priority programs.

2.2.1 Departmental Programs

20. As far as the Departmental Programs for the year 2006 are concerned, the Secretariat and Training Department will implement the departmental program activities emphasizing on the promotion of SEAFDEC activities, compilation of fishery information as well as policy and program coordination. Moreover, the thrust on development and promotion of technologies for various aquaculture species which AQD intends to undertake during the next five years from 2006 to 2010 will be conducted. Nine departmental programs will be conducted in the year 2006. Recommendations by the Committee on the Departmental Programs are as follows:

21. Under **Center-wide Information Network Program**, the Secretariat should increase dissemination of information through network of library and institutions, SEAFDEC website, and the National Coordinators. More efforts should be put to hasten publishing of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin so as to provide up-to-date data to the Member Countries and other users.

22. For **Working Group for Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP)**, the Secretariat should explore options to cover the cost, including adjustment to the current cost-sharing mechanism, to maintain activities of the WGRFP program in response to the unclear financial situation.

23. TD should conduct a base line study on the need and effectiveness of e-learning activities particularly through website to ensure successful results of **Information and Communications Technology Program**.

24. While endorsing the **Vessel Operation Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2**, TD was requested to consult with all participating countries to adjust the operation plan in line with the available budget for the year 2006. As for the year 2007, the operation plan should be finalized when the financial situation become clearer. In addition, TD was requested to investigate the need and usage of M.V. SEAFDEC and take appropriate actions in order to reduce the maintenance cost of the vessels.

2.2.2 Programs under ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism

25. Similarly to programs of the year 2005, SEAFDEC programs of activity under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism can be grouped in to four categories as follows:

- Programs Related to Fisheries Management;
- Programs Related to Aquaculture;
- Programs Related to Fishery Post-harvest and Processing including Quality and Safety Aspects; and
- Programs Related to Trade and Environmental Related Issues.

• **Programs Related to Fisheries Management**

26. There are 10 programs under this grouping as follows:

- Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- Strengthening Small-scale Fisheries Management through the Promotion of Rights-based and Co-management Concepts;
- Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region;
- Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature)
- Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement;
- Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses;
- The Use of Indicators for Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries;
- Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries;
- Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea; and
- Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty.

27. For the year 2006, programs related to fisheries management still focus on concerns over the long-term sustainability of fisheries resource using appropriate management mechanisms, which is vital to ensuring stable fish supply and achieving food security and related benefits in the ASEAN region both now and in future. Most of the programs aim to provide to minimize disparities of the Member Countries and to achieve coordinated efforts toward sustainable fisheries. The guidelines and information for fisheries management will be provided and the programs will also be carried out with the involvement of community at respective pilot sites, mobilization of experts from national institutes, and core member countries leading the implementation of

project activities. Some of the programs will also involve the conduct of training courses for trainers in the management of fisheries managers, the handling of database applications developed and relevant meetings, conferences, seminars and consultations to share and enhance the relevant knowledge and experiences. Recommendations by the Committee on programs under this category are:

28. Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in the Southeast Asia that have been published under **Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) Program** should be regularly reviewed and updated. Reviewing exercises should include updating content of the regional guidelines in response to the progress and fisheries situation, adoption of regional guidelines at the national level through stakeholder consultation, etc. The Member Countries were encouraged to continue exerting efforts in implementing the CCRF. Continued technical assistance from SEAFDEC was requested.

29. **Project on Strengthening Small-scale Fisheries Management through the Promotion of Rights-based and Co-management Concepts** should be harmonized with TD project on Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty considering that the Secretariat focuses on promotion and development of policy and TD focuses on implementation of pilot activities.

30. **Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region Program** would largely depend on the readiness and capacity of respective countries. Activities at the national level such as pilot projects and on-site training should be given low priority.

31. Under **Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with the Nature) Project**, TD should compile experiences including that of the Philippines in introduction and adoption of the use of Juvenile and Trash Fish Excluder Devices (JTEDs) as well as conduct cost-benefit studies on the use of JTEDs to facilitate future promotion of the device in the Member Countries. Moreover, the use of circle hooks by fishers as more usage of this type of hook would reduce cost of this hook type in the future.

32. The use of artificial reefs under **Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement Project** should be based on national interests and capacity. To this end, pilot activities on artificial reefs should be given low priority. The introduction of fisheries refugia, which has been developed by UNEP South China Sea (SCS) project, was informed and the establishment of fisheries refugia by identifying important spawning and nursing grounds of fisheries resources could help improving management of fisheries.

33. While noting that there are some under-utilized species found along continental slope and untrawlable areas in the region based on **Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses Project**, it was suggested that these resources could be used as raw materials for surimi products. The budget under Japanese Trust Fund II could be used for implementation of activities related to raw materials for surimi and species harvested in untrawlable areas. TD should provide

more information to the Member Countries on under-utilized species with market potentials.

34. Note was given that inland fisheries depends on national context and priority. Thus **Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries Project** was suggested to give low priority. Due to financial constraints, management of inland fisheries can be coordinated with the Secretariat project on Strengthening Small-scale Fisheries Management through the Promotion of Rights-based and Co-management Concepts as the regional guidelines on the project issue also include requirements from inland fisheries.

- **Programs Related to Aquaculture**

35. There are 3 main programs under this grouping as follows;

- Development of Technologies for Sustainable Aquaculture;
- Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture; and
- Establishment of Fish Disease Surveillance System.

36. The programs under this category aim promoting sustainable aquaculture in the ASEAN region in order to address food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood. The programs are also intended to serve as an avenue for addressing the issues of unequal economic development, poverty and socio-economic disparities among the countries in the region as emphasized in the Hanoi Plan of Action. Specifically therefore, the programs aim to address regionally relevant technology needs for sustainable aquaculture in the areas of broodstock development, genetic improvement, seed production, and culture systems of various species for aquaculture.

- **Programs Related to Fishery Post-harvest and Processing including Quality and Safety Aspects**

37. There are 4 programs under this grouping as follows:

- Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN member countries;
- Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries;
- Good Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries; and
- Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish, Fish Products and the Environment such as Fishing Ground and Aquaculture Field.

38. Maximized use of existing fish catches as well as quality and safety assurance system will have a positive impact on the supply of fish to the local and international markets. The programs under this category address the need for reduction of waste and discarding of fish, which is predominantly caused by low market demand, value and poor quality. In addition to market acceptability, improved fish quality will widen the use of these species by the fish processing sector, including those producing traditional fish products. Traditional fish products represent a significant component of fish utilization in Southeast Asian and are produced largely by small and medium-sized fish processing establishments. The production of these culturally important products should be promoted, with appropriate support including the establishment of quality assurance systems which are suitable for implementation in the small and medium-sized fish processing establishments.

39. Under this program grouping, the Committee made a recommendation on **Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries Project** for MFRD to compile information on development of new products in order to promote this potential in the future.

• **Programs Related to Trade and Other Related Issues**

40. There are 3 programs under this grouping as follows;

- Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues;
- Environmental Related Task in Southeast Asia; and
- Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement for Species under International Concerns.

41. The programs under this grouping have been formulated primarily to provide a forum for ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries to discuss and exchange views based on the regional needs and also in response to international initiatives and other evolving fisheries situations that have serious implications to the region's trade of fish including the sustainability of the fisheries resources. Recommendations by the Committee for the programs under this category are:

42. Under **Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues Program**, SEAFDEC have to review issues to be discussed at the FAO COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade to be held in May 2006 in order to identify issues for discussion at the regional technical consultation (RTC) and also review the past supports of SEAFDEC particularly on fish trade and environmental related issues to the Member Countries at international fora and discuss the issue at the RTC to identify practical approaches for future undertaking.

43. The publication on 'Shark production, utilization and management in the ASEAN Region' developed under **Environmental Related Task in Southeast Asia Program** should be disseminated to wider public. Member Countries were encouraged to continue exerting efforts in the implementation of NPOA-Shark as the issue is still under the international concern. An in-depth study on sea cucumber in Member Countries should be conducted to provide a basis to prepare necessary actions for the CoP14 of CITES to be held in June 2007.

44. As for **Stock Enhancement for Threatened Species of International Concern**, the program should be demarcated and harmonized with that of TD on Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement. It was clarified that activities related to stock enhancement will be the responsibility of AQD and management of coastal fisheries through resource enhancement will be the responsibility of TD. It was suggested that resource/stock enhancement should be developed under the management framework to ensure successful implementation. With regard to the component II of the project dealing with the stock enhancement of sea turtles, a comparative experiment between circle hook and J-hook to be conducted by TD under this program was supported.

III. OTHER MATTERS

45. Due to the concern on unclear financial situation, the Committee suggested that any new proposal of activities requiring additional funding should be avoided and efforts should be given to mobilization of existing capacity and competence of SEAFDEC.

3.1 Proposed Performance Indicators for Program Evaluation

46. Suggestion was made on the need for a tool to facilitate planning, monitoring and evaluation of SEAFDEC activities. To this end some trial cases was suggested to conduct before adoption of any tool. The tool should be also simple and developed based on the nature of SEAFDEC activities.

3.2 Proposal for Establishment of the Status of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Southeast Asia

47. This proposal would require inputs, resources and capacity more than currently available. It was suggested that the Secretariat should fully use the existing information tools such as Special Publication on 'Fish for the People' for such a purpose.

3.3 Proposal for Establishment of the Fish Trade Statistic Bulletin for Southeast Asian Region

48. Fish trade statistics are generally produced by non-fishery agencies and additional merit for such a bulletin to existing fish trade statistics such as that of FAO is not significant so this activity should be given low priority.

3.4 Regional Inventory Database and Network for Information Collection on Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Member Countries

49. The development of database should be considered a long-term development and updating requirements to ensure useful results. The suggestion also applies to other development of databases.

3.5 Proposal on the Year of Turtle (YOT) 2006

50. The proposal should be considered as part of the existing program related to sea turtles. Activities with additional financial implication are discouraged.

3.6 Study on Eco-labelling: Perceptions; Prospects and Opportunities for the use and Application of Eco-labelling in the ASEAN Region

51. The framework and conduct of this proposed study was supported and the result of the study has been submitted for discussion at the Regional Technical Consultation on Fish Trade and Environment held in February 2006.

3.7 The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

52. The Committee pointed out that future meetings of ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG could be held back to back with SEAFDEC Program Committee meetings to allow sufficient time for preparation of issues for submission to the Council. The Secretariat was requested to consult with the ASEAN Secretariat to look into the timing of future meetings of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) and explore how common positions be developed by ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries could be reflected at international fora.

3.8 Japanese Trust Funds to SEAFDEC

53. The National Coordinator for Japan informed the Committee that although there would not be additional budget of Japanese Trust Fund III for the year 2006 and 2007, however the remaining funds (US\$350,000) can be utilized for the year 2006 and 2007. The National Coordinator for Japan was requested to provide information on scope and budget scale of projects under Japanese Trust Funds to all Member Countries through the Secretariat by early next year. This will facilitate the program scrutiny during the formulation process.

3.9 Arrangement for Future Program Committee Meetings

54. The Secretariat was suggested that to conduct the future Program Committee meetings, presentation of the results of previous year activities and proposals for next year activities should be simultaneously presented and discussed.

IV. SUGGESTION BY THE COUNCIL

55. The Council is requested to consider and endorse the results of program implementation for the year 2005 and proposed programs for the year 2006 including the recommendations made at the 28th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee.

56. The Council is also invited to provide directives for the Secretariat and all Departments on areas of improvement for the program formulation and implementation to enhance impacts of the projects and benefits to the Member Countries in the future.

Appendix 1 of Annex 6

LIST OF SEAFDEC PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2005

Programs	Responsible Departments
DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS	
1. Center-Wide Information Network	SEC
2. Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP)	SEC
3. Information and Communications Technology	TD
4. Bloodstock Management and Seed Quality Improvement of Cultured Species	AQD
5. Development of Responsible and Sustainable Aquaculture Technologies	AQD
6. Collaborative Programs in with BFAR and Other	AQD
PROGRAMS UNDER THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM	
1. Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (in collaboration with TD, AQD, MFRDMD and MFRD)	SEC
2. Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues	SEC
3. Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region (2002-2005)	
Component I: Fisheries Management	
SDI-1 Toward Decentralized Management for Sustainable Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	SEC
SDI-2 Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms	SEC
SDI-3 Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices	TD
SDI-4 Resource Enhancement	TD
SDI-5 Identification of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	MFRDMD
SDI-6 Information Gathering for Capture Inland Fisheries in ASEAN Countries	MFRDMD
SDI-7 Harvesting of Under-exploited Resource	TD
Component II: Aquaculture	
SDII-1 Aquaculture for Rural Development	AQD
SDII-2 Supply of Good Quality Seeds	AQD
Component III: Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products	
SDIII-1 Maximizing the Utilization of Fish Catch	MFRD
SDIII-2 Fish Quality and Safety Management Systems	MFRD
4. Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea (in collaboration with TD and MFRD)	MFRDMD
5. Management of Fisheries and Utilization of Shark in Southeast Asia (in collaboration with MFRDMD and MFRD)	SEC
6. Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals	AQD
7. Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish, Fish Products and the Environment such as Fishing Ground and Aquaculture Field	MFRD
8. Research and Development (R&D) on Stock Enhancement of Threatened Species Under International Concerned (in collaboration with MFRDMD and TD)	AQD
9. Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty	TD

LIST OF SEAFDEC PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2006

Programs	Responsible Departments
DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS	
1. Center-wide Information Network	SEC
2. Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP)	SEC
3. Information and Communications Technology	TD
4. Integrated Mollusk Production	AQD
5. Mud crab	AQD
6. Shrimp Domestication	AQD
7. Marine Fish	AQD
8. Small-holder Freshwater Aquaculture	AQD
9. Seaweed Strain Improvement	AQD
PROGRAMS UNDER THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM	
1. Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (in collaboration with TD, MFRD, AQD and MFRDMD)	SEC
2. Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues	SEC
3. Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region (2006-2010)	
Component Program I: Fisheries Management	
1.1 Strengthening Small-scale Fisheries Management through the Promotion of Rights-based and Co-management Concepts	SEC
1.2 Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	SEC
1.3 Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature)	TD
1.4 Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement	TD
1.5 Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses	TD
1.6 The use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	MFRDMD
1.7 Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries	MFRDMD
Component Program II: Aquaculture	
2.1 Development of Technologies for Sustainable Aquaculture	AQD
2.2 Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture	AQD
Component Program III: Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products	
3.1 Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries	MFRD
3.2 Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries	MFRD
3.3 Good Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries	MFRD
4. Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea (in collaboration with TD and MFRD)	MFRDMD
5. Environmental Related Task in Southeast Asia (in collaboration with MFRDMD and MFRD)	SEC
6. Establishment of Fish Disease Surveillance System	AQD

7. Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish, Fish Products and the Environment such as Fishing Ground and Aquaculture Field	MFRD
8. Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement for Species under International Concerns (in collaboration with MFRDMD and TD)	AQD
9. Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty	TD

VESSEL OPERATION PLAN FOR M.V.SEAFFDEC 2 FOR THE YEAR 2006

Proposed National Research Program for 2006															
No.	Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Country	Remarks
1	Fisheries resources survey in Andaman sea (Longline & Trawl)													Thai	PLL, BVL, Trap
2, 5	Pelagic fisheries resources survey in West Peninsular, Malaysia													Malaysia	Mid water trawl high opening trawl
3	Fishery Oceanographic & biology survey													Brunei Darussalam	TLL, BVL, Trap, Bottom trawl
4	Stock Assessment, Karimata Straits, 10 day at sea													Indonesia	High Opening Bottom Trawl, squid jigging
6	Colla. fisheries resources survey in HE Palawan													Philippine	Bottom trawl, BVL, PLL, fish pot,
7	Fisheries resources survey in the continental slope													Vietnam	Trap, BVL
8	Fishery resource survey, 14 day													Cambodia	Bottom Trawl
	Echo identification using deep sea VNO and net record/SI													M/FRDMD	Bottom & Mid-water Trawl
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">MV SEAFDEC on DOCKING</div>															
<div style="background-color: #e6e6fa; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Co-Operative Work with Member Countries Based on Country Interest</div>															
Notes: Detail schedule of each cruise, TD will consult with relevant countries later.															

Tentative National Research Program for 2007															
No.	Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Country	Remarks
1	Fisheries resources survey in Andaman sea (Longline & Trap)	■											■	Thai	PLL, BVL, Trap
2	Colla. Fisheries resources survey in Southern Sulu sea									■				Philippine	Bottom trawl, BVL, PLL, fish pot.
3	Fishery resource survey, Pelagic Species			■			■					■		Cambodia	Bottom Trawl
4	Fishery resource survey, northern part of Malacca Straits												■	Indonesia	Bottom Trawl
5	Demersal Resources Status in Myanmar Coastal Area and Gulf of Mottama		■											Myanmar	Bottom Trawl
	PRR 6100 DATA COLLECTION	Collaborative Work with Member Countries Based on Country Interest												MFRDMD	Oceanography issues
	Notes: Detail schedule of each cruise, TD will consult with relevant countries later.														

Annex 7

**NOTE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG)**

1. The Eighth Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG met on 17 April 2006 in Brunei Darussalam with the objectives to discuss collaborative programs under the FCG mechanism for the year 2005 and 2006 as well as fisheries issues of ASEAN importance.

ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

2. The Meeting endorsed the progress and achievement of the programs of activity undertaken under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism in 2005; and the proposed future programs of activity for the year 2006.

3. As one of the major achievement in the year 2005, the Meeting acknowledged with appreciation the completion and achievement of the Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region, implemented from 2002 to 2005. The Meeting also took note of the new phase of the Special 5-year Program to be implemented from 2006 to 2010.

POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership

4. The Meeting supported the proposal on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and suggested the Terms of Reference, Scope and Cooperation Mechanism of the ASSP proposal for consideration and endorsement by higher authorities of ASEAN and SEAFDEC.

5. The Meeting recognized that establishment of the ASSP would enhance closer collaboration between the two organizations by strengthening implementation of regional fisheries programs and mechanism for raising important fisheries issues, including those require ASEAN and SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions. The Meeting also noted that such common/coordinated position is envisaged to support stronger voice of the Member Countries in the relevant international fora.

International Fish Trade Related Issues and Anti-Fisheries Campaigns

6. The Meeting supported the Executive report of International Fish Trade Related Issues and Anti-Fisheries Campaigns outlining issues on fisheries subsidies, MoU between FAO and CITES, concerned aquatic species under CITES with emphasis given on sharks, sea cucumbers and sea turtles, moratorium on the high seas bottom trawling, eco-labelling in fish and fishery products and so on.

7. The Meeting acknowledged with appreciation the initiative of SEAFDEC in monitoring the issues, keeping Member Countries informed, and supporting the development of common/ coordinated positions among the ASEAN and SEAFDEC

Countries on important international issues. Such initiative could strengthen partnership among the Member Countries in international fora. Suggestions were made that the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries should carefully investigate the issues and where appropriate participate actively in relevant international fora and or coordinate with relevant national authorities to accommodate fisheries concerns into national policy and positions.

8. Regarding the issue on fishery subsidies, the Meeting noted the WTO preparation process of the legal text to be finalized by the end of 2006 that subsidies relevant to small-scale fisheries would be an exempt due to its contribution to poverty reduction and people's livelihood. In this connection, suggestion was made to the Member Countries to develop common characteristics of small-scale fisheries in the region including criteria for fisheries subsidies that should be permitted.

9. On issue related to eco-labelling in Fish and Fishery Products, the Meeting considered background of the issues on eco-labeling discussed at the relevant international and regional fora as well as the outcomes from the "Regional Study on Eco-labelling of Aquatic Products: General Views and Future Considerations for the ASEAN Region". While noting that there is no clear policy direction on the issue, the Meeting supported initiatives to explore further the concept and approach in the regional context including implementation of pilot studies to provide basis for future in-depth discussion among the Member Countries.

10. The Meeting also suggested that regional strategy on the issue need to be developed, taking into consideration:

- The role of government in addressing issues of eco-labelling both in terms of being a market driven incentive and a tool to promote sustainable practices;
- Active participation in future amendments/development of initiatives related to eco-labelling at relevant international fora;
- Specificity and uniqueness of fisheries in the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries; and
- Practicability of any labeling scheme and readiness of fisheries sub-sectors or fishery products.

OTHER MATTERS

11. The Meeting endorsed with appreciation the progress and supported future plan of programs supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the ASEAN Foundation through the ASEAN-Japan Solidarity Fund.

12. On activities related to tsunami rehabilitation, the Meeting recognized the need for a simple early warning system for fishing communities in order to avoid possible damage caused by future natural devastation. Need was also expressed that activities on development of coastal aquaculture with the view to create job opportunity for fishing community in the affected areas particularly in Indonesia should be considered.

13. With the view to reduce disparities among the Member Countries, the Meeting suggested that due consideration is given to the new ASEAN Member Countries when planning future projects and activities.

PROPOSAL ON ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP): STRENGTHENING ASEAN-SEAFDEC COOPERATION IN FISHERIES

I. BACKGROUND

1 SEAFDEC has been cooperating and collaborating closely with ASEAN through the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) for many years. In 1993, the 15th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting (AMAF) agreed that SEAFDEC be appointed as the technical arm for ASEAN fishery projects on a project-by-project basis. In 1999, the 21st AMAF Meeting further endorsed the establishment of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) as a mechanism to harmonize their technical programs/projects/activities. In 2001, ASEAN and SEAFDEC successfully organized the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium, “Fish for the People (Millennium Conference)” and a Ministerial Meeting in November 2001, Bangkok, Thailand. The Ministerial Meeting adopted the “Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region” and endorsed the “Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region”.

2 With the endorsement of the 25th AMAF Meeting, SEAFDEC organized a “Seminar on ASEAN-Japan Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries through SEAFDEC” from 3 to 5 December 2003, as an activity commemorating ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year 2003. The 26th AMAF Meeting endorsed the Seminar’s ASEAN Vision: “*To be a leader in Sustainable Tropical Fisheries for the People*”, and further agreed that ASEAN-Japan cooperation in fisheries through SEAFDEC should be further strengthened.

3 At the 37th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 5 to 8 April 2005, the Council in response to the 26th AMAF Meeting decision, agreed that ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation should be further strengthened and formalized, and mandated SEAFDEC Secretariat to develop an appropriate proposal.

4 Subsequent to the 37th SEAFDEC Council Meeting, the SEAFDEC Secretariat, taking into account the views and comments of all SEAFDEC member countries, formulated the concept paper of “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)” as an instrument to further strengthen ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation and collaboration. SEAFDEC presented the concept paper on ASSP to 27th AMAF Meeting held in the Philippines on the 29 September 2005 in response to the 26th AMAF and 37th SEAFDEC Council Meetings’ decision calling for the strengthening of ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation. The 27th AMAF Meeting supported the SEAFDEC’s concept for the ASSP, and SEAFDEC was asked to work with the ASWGFi and the ASEAN Secretariat to further develop the ASSP, as stated below.

“The Meeting expressed appreciation for SEAFDEC’s cooperation with ASEAN and satisfaction on the progress made. The Meeting agreed to endorse SEAFDEC’s proposed concept for the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)”. SEAFDEC was invited to work with

ASWGF and the ASEAN Secretariat to review existing cooperation mechanisms and develop the Terms of Reference and the scope for the ASSP for consideration and endorsement of AMAF¹.”

5 At the Special SEAFDEC Council Meeting held from 14 to 15 November 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand, the SEAFDEC Council also endorsed the ASSP concept and enhancement of cooperation between SEAFDEC and ASEAN as stated below.

“The Council endorsed the ASSP concept proposed by the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The Council agreed that SEAFDEC Secretariat should participate in future AMAF and AMAF related meetings when invited. The Council requested that the following be further clarified in consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat and progress made on the issue be kept informed to all Member Countries:

- *Scope and Terms of Reference (TORs) of the ASSP;*
- *Review the existing cooperation mechanisms between ASEAN and SEAFDEC;*
- *SEAFDEC participation in future AMAF and AMAF related meetings; and*
- *Raising the profile of SEAFDEC in the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Forum².”*

6 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fish Trade Related Issues organized in February 2006, Bangkok, Thailand concluded the following excerpts with respect to ASSP.

1) The Consultation recognized the importance of coordinated/ common positions among the Member Countries with the views to support individual country’s interest in fisheries as well as active participation of the Member Countries in relevant international fora.

2) While noting that SEAFDEC has no capacity to develop a fisheries policy as well as speak on behalf of any Member Countries at international fora, the Consultation viewed that SEAFDEC should assist the Member Countries particularly on the conduct of comprehensive review of priority issues and areas for consideration, develop information package to promote awareness on the issues and provide technical supports to the Member Countries prior and at relevant international fora .

3) The Consultation suggested SEAFDEC Secretariat to provide a comprehensive proposal on the mechanism for consideration at the forthcoming meetings of ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG and SEAFDEC Council. The areas for consideration include following.

- *Strategies, process and timeliness of effective formulation and implementation of fisheries related policy and common /coordinated positions; and*

¹ Report of the 27th AMAF Meeting, 29 September 2005, Tagaytay City, the Philippines

² Report of the Special Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC, 14-15 November 2005, Bangkok, Thailand

- *Proactive approaches and strategies for participation of the Member Countries in the international fora to safeguard common fisheries interests.*

4) *The Consultation supported that (above issues) could be further elaborated as part of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership to enhance the cooperation among ASEAN, SEAFDEC and the Member Countries³.*

II. RATIONALE FOR THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP)

7 The ASSP will be a framework that ASEAN and SEAFDEC collaborate each other for achieving their various goals on sustainable fisheries in complementary manner. The ASSP will therefore be an important formal reference arrangement for present and future ASEAN cooperation/collaboration with SEAFDEC.

8 The rationale to develop the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) is to develop appropriate policy and working mechanism to achieve common goals on fisheries through collaborative work between ASEAN and SEAFDEC. Reviewing the past cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC, the ASSP should be developed in evolved manner value adding to existing cooperation. The scopes of the ASSP should cover the following areas.

- a) **Strategic/Complementary Cooperation:** Reviewing the competence and mandates of the two organizations (ASWGF and SEAFDEC), required areas of collaborative work should be identified and promoted.
- b) **Streamlining Exercises of Program Implementation:** Reviewing the past experience of collaborative work on the program implementation, the areas of improved cooperation will be identified and promoted.
- c) **Working Mechanism of Cooperation:** Reviewing the past experience of cooperation, the area for improved mechanism will be identified and implemented to promote the above two collaborative works.

2.1 Strategic/ Complementary Cooperation

9 The “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium, “Fish for the People (Millennium Conference) ” and the Ministerial Meeting in November 2001, Bangkok, Thailand adopted the “Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region”. Paragraph 16 of the Resolution highlights the regional concern to safeguard ASEAN interest from external threats as follows.

“Increase the participation and involvement of ASEAN Member Countries in international fora to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests.”

³ Report of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fish Trade Related Issues, 20-22 February 2006, Bangkok, Thailand

10 One of the major constraints evaluated by the ASEAN Member Countries with respect to the Implementation of “Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region” conducted in 2004 was that ASEAN and SEAFDEC collaborative work to achieve the above Resolution was so far not sufficient. Based on the recommendations reached at ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fish Trade Related Issues, the following clarification was made for further consideration.

- Through the various technical activities including ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG programs, the common/coordinated positions of ASEAN/SEAFDEC Member Countries on the issues to be discussed at the international fora should be identified.
- While most of the regional fisheries issues requiring Member Countries’ national follow-up activities (mainstreaming process) need ASEAN regional fisheries policy, the issues imposed by external sources need the timely action to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests. The latter one should therefore be clarified as regional common/ coordinated positions reflecting the regional policy, require proactive action to safeguard ASEAN fisheries interest, especially in achieving sustainable fisheries.
- ASWGFi would screen the issues and decide whether the issues would be considered as ASEAN fisheries common/coordinated positions or require further coordination and policy consideration with other line agencies through submission to ASEAN higher level meetings, based on the level of integration.
- The issues considered as ASEAN common/coordinated positions would be used as a technical basis for the participation of ASEAN Member Countries to international fora. However, ASWGFi would have to systematically report to ASEAN higher level meeting including AMAF, to ensure that it safeguards the interests of the ASEAN Member countries and outcomes of such proactive actions.
- SEAFDEC should support ASEAN Member Countries prior and at relevant international fora.

2.2 Streamlining Exercises of Program Implementation

11 ASEAN had in the past appointed SEAFDEC to be its implement agency for some of its fisheries programs/projects. This arrangement excludes ASEAN fisheries programs/projects that are implemented directly by the ASWGFi. SEAFDEC does not have direct access or contact with these programs. For ASEAN, the implementation of fisheries programs/projects by ASWGFi has inherent difficulties as ASWGFi does not have a permanent secretariat that can monitor program activities and progress, as the Chairmanship and secretariat of the ASWGFi is held by rotation on a yearly basis among ASEAN member countries. In order for ASEAN fisheries programs/projects to be implemented effectively and the progress monitored regularly, it will be extremely advantageous for ASWGFi to have an executing agency that will be able to work closely with the rotating Chairmanship of ASWGFi. It is therefore appropriate for ASEAN to consider SEAFDEC as the logical choice as the ASWGFi’s executing agency. SEAFDEC is already the implementing agency for many of ASWGFi’s ASEAN-SEAFDEC programs.

12 The proposal for ASEAN to appoint SEAFDEC as its executing agency will require the approval of ASEAN and SEAFDEC. The proposed ASSP will further strengthen ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation and integrate the fisheries programs/projects of ASEAN and SEAFDEC and will enhance the development of sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asia region.

2.3 Working Mechanism of Cooperation

13 The existing formal mechanism for ASEAN and SEAFDEC is the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG). The FCG meetings are held annually back-to-back before the annual SEAFDEC Council meetings. The FCG meeting is co-chaired by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC and the Chairman of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi). The FCG meeting provides the forum for ASEAN and SEAFDEC to formally discuss and formulate common fisheries projects/activities and policies for implementation. ASEAN Secretariat is also invited to participate in SEAFDEC Council Meeting, PCM and other SEAFDEC subsidiary meetings in which ASEAN has an interest. Similarly, SEAFDEC is invited to participate in ASWGFi meetings, ASEAN's SOM- AMAF and AMAF meetings. These meetings have provided ASEAN and SEAFDEC with the avenues to interact and cooperate/collaborate closely.

14 The FCG is the only formal mechanism for ASEAN and SEAFDEC to formalize and document their cooperation under joint ASEAN and SEAFDEC chairmanship. The official Reports of the FCG meetings are submitted to ASWGFi/SOM-AMAF and SEAFDEC Council for approval thus providing the formal mandate in both ASEAN and SEAFDEC organizations for ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperative/collaborative programs/activities.

15 It is proposed that the FCG mechanism be retained in the ASSP, except that the FCG meeting be held back-to-back with the annual SEAFDEC Program Committee meetings (PCM) on December, instead of the SEAFDEC Council meetings. This re-scheduling of the FCG meetings will provide more time for discussions and formulation of joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC projects/activities, and also more time for planning and preparations of joint programs/activities before its submission to ASWGFi/AMAF and SEAFDEC Council meetings, usually held in the first half of the year, for formal approval/endorsement. This will also provide Council Directors and ASWGFi Members more time to consider the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG's Report and proposed programs/activities.

16 In order to enhance ASEAN/ SEAFDEC collaborative work including those mentioned above 1) and 2), working mechanism should also be improved under ASSP. The ASSP will improve the effectiveness of FCG with respect to collaborative work and monitoring the cooperation. The establishment of the ASSP will place on record the close relationship between SEAFDEC and ASEAN in fisheries development in the ASEAN region.

III. CONCLUSION

17 The proposed Terms of Reference (TOR), Scope and Cooperation Mechanism are attached as **Appendix 1**. The Terms of Reference, Scope and Cooperation Mechanism will provide the framework for the operation of the ASSP. The proposed TOR, Scope and Cooperation Mechanism have incorporated inputs from the discussion of the 28th Program Committee Meeting of SEAFDEC, 7-9 Dec 2005. It is proposed that the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG and the 38th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2006, consider and approve the proposed TOR, Scope and Cooperation Mechanism of the ASSP for submission to the ASEAN Secretariat. It is envisaged that the ASEAN Secretariat will submit the proposal to the 14th ASWGFi Meeting in mid April 2006 for endorsement before submission to the 28th AMAF Meeting in Nov 2006 for Ministerial approval.

DRAFT

**Terms of Reference and Scope for Cooperation and Collaboration under the
ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)**

I. Terms Of Reference (TOR)

1.1 Strategic/Complementary Cooperation⁴

- 1) SEAFDEC, through the implementation of its appropriate technical programs in collaboration with ASEAN/SEAFDEC Member Countries, to clarify and develop common/coordinated positions on the issues to be discussed at the international fora should be identified.
- 2) While most of the regional fisheries issues requiring Member Countries' national follow-up activities (mainstreaming process) need ASEAN regional fisheries policy, the issues imposed by external sources need the timely action by ASEAN Member Countries to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests. The latter one should therefore be clarified as ASEAN common/ coordinated positions reflecting the regional policy, require proactive action to safeguard ASEAN fisheries interest, especially in achieving sustainable fisheries.
- 3) ASWGFi would screen the issues and decide whether the issues would be considered as ASEAN fisheries common/coordinated positions or require further coordination and policy consideration with other line agencies through submission to ASEAN higher level meetings, based on the level of integration.
- 4) The issues considered by ASWGFi as regional common/ coordinated positions would be used as a technical basis for the participation of ASEAN Member Countries to international fora. However, ASWGFi would have to systematically report to ASEAN higher level meeting including AMAF on the process with respect to collaborative activities on safeguarding the interests of ASEAN and its Member Countries.
- 5) SEAFDEC should support ASEAN Member Countries prior and at relevant international fora so as to conduct coordinated intervention on the target issues.

1.2 Streamlining Exercises of Program Implementation

- 1) 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.

⁴ For items 1 to 5, please refer to para. 10 of Rationale for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

- 2) ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs shall be conducted based on the principles, rules, procedures and regulations of ASEAN and “ the Agreement Establishing the Southeast Asian Development Center” of SEAFDEC.
- 3) ASEAN and SEAFDEC will endeavour to develop and undertake regional fisheries programs/activities related to the Southeast Asian Region systematically and vigorously taking into consideration regional and national priorities.
- 4) 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 ASWGFi, prepare the documents, when necessary, on ASEAN Fisheries Programs in response to ASEAN needs.
- 5) Before their implementation, SEAFDEC Secretariat will seek the approval of the Council of SEAFDEC on ASEAN fisheries programs that will be entrusted by ASEAN.

1.3 Working Mechanism of Cooperation

- 1) In the ASSP, ASEAN and SEAFDEC 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.
- 2) ASEAN will invite SEAFDEC representatives to meetings of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and its subsidiary bodies, and other relevant ASEAN meetings (e.g. SOM-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 names, logo and/or official emblem of ASEAN and SEAFDEC on any publication, document and/or paper shall be by mutual written agreement.

II. Scope for Cooperation and Collaboration under the ASSP

The areas for Scope of cooperation and collaboration for 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 Integration of the Fisheries Sector.
3. Increased participation and involvement of ASEAN Member Countries in international fora to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests. (Paragraph 16 of “Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region” adopted at “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food

Security in the New Millennium, “Fish for the People (Millennium Conference) ” and the Ministerial Meeting in November 2001, Bangkok, Thailand adopted

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 resources 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.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL FISH TRADE RELATED ISSUES AND ANTI-FISHERIES CAMPAIGNS (2006)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. SEAFDEC Secretariat organized the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fish Trade Related Issues held from 20 to 22 February 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Consultation was held as part of the program on “Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues” implemented under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism and funded by the Japanese Trust Fund to SEAFDEC.

2. The main objectives of the RTC were to review status and concerns on important fisheries issues including international fish trade, develop policy recommendations including common/coordinated positions, which could be used by the Member Countries when participating in relevant international fora as well as to identify improvement of the mechanism for formulation and implementation of policy recommendations and coordinated/common positions.

3. At the Consultation, the Secretariat provided basic information on the regional/international fora that would deliberate on important fisheries issues. The fora includes those of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) (9 to 11 May), the 10th Session of FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (30 May to 2 June), the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) (14 to 16 June), and the CITES Animals Committee (7 to 13 July). Accordingly, the Consultation encouraged the Member Countries to prepare relevant inputs and participate actively in the above fora to voice the common concerns and safeguard the regional fisheries interests.

4. Therefore, this paper was prepared to provide information and regional views on substantive issues related to fish trade and anti-fisheries campaigns derived from the Consultation as well as conclusions from relevant SEAFDEC activities. After go through the document, it is envisaged that the Meeting would suggest on future directions and follow-up actions to reflect regional interested and/or coordinated position at the regional/international fora as well as future roles of SEAFDEC to support the Member Countries in respective areas.

II. CONTEXT/ISSUES

2.1 Fisheries Subsidies

5. Based on the information from Japan during the RTC on International Fish Trade Related Issues (2006), it was emphasized that a general ban of fisheries subsidies (Top-Down Approach) may cause serious limitation of providing fisheries subsidies not only for developed countries, but also developing countries in the future even a fishery subsidies may be considered necessary. Rather, it was emphasized that the Bottom-up Approach, which prohibits only subsidies that have direct negative impacts on fisheries resources, would be more amenable to the need of each country and logical because

fisheries subsidies negotiation started with an aim to supplement the global effort to achieve sustainable fisheries.

6. This issue could have substantial impact on the fisheries sector particularly the small scale fisheries in each Member Country, it is therefore recommended that careful follow-up of the progress of negotiation and further representation of the fisheries manager in the process of policy coordination for WTO negotiation in each ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Country should be encouraged, meanwhile inputs from national fisheries agency would be indispensable to trade negotiators at the national level.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

7. The FCG Meeting is invited to consider and suggest on the follow-up of the progress of WTO negotiation and coordination mechanism of fishery agency in the process of policy coordination for WTO negotiations as well as provision of technical inputs based on scientific evidence to trade negotiators.

2.2 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO-CITES

8. Since 2002, the issue of the MoU between CITES and FAO has been seriously discussed at FAO and CITES in order to strengthen the collaboration between the two organizations on commercial exploited aquatic species. There are many FAO members expressed their strong view that some of CITES listings species have potentially serious negative impact for normal fishing activities and their economies particularly developing and coastal states. In order to accommodate both the CITES and FAO's interests in the potential MoU, CITES standing Committee Chairman and FAO Secretariat discussed and prepared a "compromised text" for the draft MoU in 2004. The "compromised text" has been in parallel discussed under FAO and CITES. Although FAO has not completed its discussion on the text, CITES has finished its discussion and prepared a new draft MoU at the 53rd Standing Committee held in Geneva in June 2005.

9. With the view to avoid un-scientific listing of commercial aquatic species by CITES, it was recommended that the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries would look into new draft MoU prepared by CITES, which will be submitted to the forthcoming 10th Meeting of FAO Sub-committee on Fish Trade, and further develop national, if possibly regional, coordinated position with the national CITES competent authority.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

10. The FCG Meeting is invited to take note of the status of MoU between FAO and CITES and also suggest the Member Countries and SEAFDEC for future follow-up actions.

2.3 Concerned Aquatic Species of under CITES

a) Sharks

11. Noting the concrete concern about expanding fisheries for sharks and the potential negative impacts on shark population at the global level, an International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) was developed and endorsed by the member of FAO COFI in their 1998 meeting follow the request made by CITES Resolution Conf. 9.17.

12. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member countries recognized the problem on shark and their management. Some initiatives have been undertaken by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, including serious of consultations on sharks, a one-year ad-hoc study on shark production and its utilization, the regional study on shark trade, and the study on the identification of sharks based on dermal denticles. Outcomes of all these efforts have been published into a proceeding of “Shark Production, Utilization, and Management in the ASEAN Region” in 2006.

13. Further, in March 2004, the Member Countries also agreed to develop their respective National Plan of Action on Sharks (NPOA-Shark) to meet the international requirement to urgently reconcile such problems in line with the IPOA-Shark, which currently Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, have finished a draft NPOA, while the rest are still developing stage of NPOA formulation.

14. At the RTC on International Fish Trade Related Issues 2006, it was reaffirmed that management of commercial aquatic species should be the purview of FAO and the Member Countries that participated the relevant fora should proactively address the fisheries concerns.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

15. The FCG Meeting is invited to consider and endorse progress and achievement of implementation of NPOA-Sharks and the regional publication on “Shark production, Utilization and Management in the ASEAN Region” and to further suggest future directions and follow-up actions in the region for the Member Countries and SEAFDEC.

b) Sea Cucumbers

16. Considering the result of the COP 13 in 2004 on the expected issues on the potential listing proposal of sea cucumbers in Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae families at the next CoP14-CITES, there have been very limited studies and collection of information on both the biology and production of sea cucumbers in the ASEAN-countries including lack of attention to the management of these species.

17. At the RTC on International Fish Trade Related Issues 2006, support was given to the conduct of a regional comprehensive study on existing available data and information on sea cucumbers as suggested at the Preparatory Meeting on Environmental Related Tasks in Southeast Asia: Sharks & Sea Cucumbers in October 2005. The Secretariat was also requested to coordinate with Department of Marine and

Coastal Resources, Thailand when conducting the regional study on sea cucumbers. In addition, it was also reaffirmed that management of sea cucumber resources should be the purview of the national fisheries competent agency.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

18. The FCG Meeting is invited to provide suggestions for formulation of regional specific study on existing available data and information on sea cucumber including species; utilization and trade as well as roles and responsibilities of Member Countries and SEAFDEC for future follow-up actions in this particular area.

c) Sea Turtles

19. In view of the importance to maintain the sea turtle biodiversity and overall aquatic eco-system balance, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries has over the years been taking initiatives in the conservation and management of sea turtles in the region. Major areas of the implementation covered coordination and compilation of information on the status of research, conservation and management activities on sea turtles in ASEAN Countries and establish a mechanism for regional collaboration in research for sea turtle conservation and management.

20. At the RTC on International Fish Trade Related Issues 2006, note was taken on the regional activities on conservation and management of sea turtles has been continuing to cover period of 2005-2008, particularly sea turtles DNA study, turtle tagging and satellite telemetry, sea turtle head-starting, study on interactions between sea turtles and fishing, and comparative studies on circle hooks and J-hook in longline fishing implemented by MFRDMD in collaboration with TD. In addition, SEAFDEC TD is in the process of developing guidelines for longline fisheries towards sustainable practices.

21. Effort in managing and conserving sea turtles was viewed as a good example of the collaboration among the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries in addressing sustainable fisheries. As for the comparative studies on the two hook types, the information showed insignificant difference in terms of catch efficiency while avoiding by-catch of sea turtles. Some concern was also raised on the cost implication related to the introduction of circle hooks particularly in small-scale fisheries.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

22. The FCG Meeting is invited to provide suggestions for strengthening future efforts in management and conservation of sea turtles by the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries.

2.4 Eco-labelling in Fish and Fishery Products

23. At the 26th Session of the FAO COFI, Eco-labelling was one of the main points on the agenda. This was subsequently discussed at the Seventh Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG held on 4 April 2005, and the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held from 5 to 8 April 2005, in Hanoi. After deliberation, the

recommendation by the Council was that a regional study on eco-labelling from the regional view point as a basis for future consideration should be conducted.

24. The regional study on eco-labelling for aquatic products was conducted from November 2005 to February 2006 by SEAFDEC with technical support from the Swedish Board of Fisheries and financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The aim of the study was preliminarily to survey the current status of sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture production in the ASEAN countries, and also to identify opportunities to participate in Eco-labelling to the specific context of the ASEAN region. This is to represent the general views and future considerations of the ASEAN region.

25. Main findings of the regional study are that the present principle of eco-labelling is corresponding to the environmental sustainability concepts, a common concern about the practical implementation of eco-labelling specific for the nature of fisheries and aquaculture activities, and costs associated with certification systems particularly small-scale producers. It is also found that the products possible to eco-label can be originated from community-based fisheries management or purse seine fisheries, as well as aquaculture products produced from extensive, poly-culture or low-input production systems. In addition, some current environmental management practices can also be eco-labelled and the same institutions can be responsible for monitoring and certifying the eco-labelling schemes.

26. Base on the outcomes of the regional study, the following recommendations were suggested by the study team:

- The local capacity on eco-labelling principles, criteria development, certification procedures and awareness on sustainability among all stakeholders should be built up;
- The practical and relevant eco-labelling principles and criteria for the ASEAN region should be developed;
- Pilot projects to demonstrate how to implement eco-labelling of existing sustainable practices should be initiated;
- Market studies to further analyze potential markets for eco-labelled products and to investigate how to marketing the products should be conducted;
- International institutions like SEAFDEC, FAO, or NACA should take an active role in the further development on eco-labelling of aquatic products for ASEAN; and
- Specific controversial issues that are foreseeable as possible environmental criteria to be used in eco-labelling should be received a particular attention – such as research on alternative substitutions for fishmeal.

27. The outcomes and recommendations of the study were presented at the RTC on International Fish Trade and Related Issues 2006, and the following clarifications and suggestions were made:

- Contribution to eco-labelling work in the region to be used as a tool to promote sustainable fisheries practices;
- Clear understanding and definition of eco-labelling in the regional context, development of appropriate criteria and standards, setting up/identification of accrediting and certifying bodies, and roles of stakeholders especially the government and industry as well as dialogues among all concerned stakeholders in the process.

- Member Countries and SEAFDEC to conduct a study on potential difficulties and impacts of the FAO international guidelines for eco-labelling for fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries and prepare necessary inputs for future development by FAO.
- Market studies should be carried-out to determine market opportunities in relation to eco-labelled products.
- Discussion among relevant international/regional organizations working in the region (e.g. FAO RAP, NACA, MRC, etc.) and the ASEAN Secretariat should be promoted when developing regional eco-labelling schemes.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

28. The FCG Meeting is invited to consider the result of the regional study and suggest future directions on the issue of eco-labelling in fish and fishery product including ways to develop mechanism for eco-labelling schemes.

2.5 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on the High Seas

29. Note was taken on on-going discussion at the meetings of the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) on establishing Marine Protected Areas in the High Seas to protect biodiversity. However the discussion has been promoted based on speculation (e.g. destructive fishing may cause the extinction of undiscovered deep sea species) or without verified scientific evidence. The issue will be discussed again in CBD CoP8 (March 2006) in Brazil. Concerns are raised that the concept shall be promoted in the future and will directly targeting to deter the fishing fleets in the high seas.

30. Although issues and justification of the current proposal was unclear, it was suggested that MPA can be one of fisheries management tools, which regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) should be responsible for the high seas in their responsible areas.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

31. The FCG Meeting is invited to suggest future directions and actions by the Member Countries and SEAFDEC related to the issue.

2.6 Moratorium on the High Seas Bottom Trawling

32. Moratorium on trawling in the high seas is demanded by some environmental NGOs (Deep Sea Conservation Coalition: <http://www.savethehighseas.org>) and countries at meetings related to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) since 2004. The 2004 UNGA Resolution requests States to consider “the interim prohibition of destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling that has adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems. Moreover, the Resolution also states that the UNGA this year will discuss whether a moratorium in the high seas is necessary, thus it is expected that there will be an intensive discussion on the issue in the series of UN meetings to include the Ad-hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group (13 to 17 February), UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (12 to 16 June) and the Informal Consultations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions (September or November).

33. Similar indication has happened before that resulted to the unscientific moratorium on the use of drift net in the high seas in 1991. It is foreseen that if countries allowed the moratorium on trawling in the high seas, they might also lose their rationale for protecting their EEZ bottom trawling, which will have adverse effect considering that bottom trawling plays significant roles in food security and the development of local communities.

34. It was viewed that the issues on bottom high sea trawling operations should come also under the jurisdiction of RFMOs, which have expertise in fisheries management. FAO has already started a study on deep sea fisheries management, including an assessment of the effects of fishing on deepwater fish populations and their ecosystems, in accordance with the agreement at FAO Committee on Fisheries in 2005.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

35. The FCG Meeting is invited to consider and suggest regional direction of issues on bottom high sea trawling operations as well as appropriate mechanism to monitor the issues that may be raised at the UNGA and where appropriate, coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs whose representatives are taking part of this forum to provide technical inputs and advise on the issues.

2.7 Quality and Safety of Fish and Fishery Products

36. One of the issues addressed at the 26th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) related to safety and quality with particular emphasis on “Fish Meal and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE-Mad Cow Disease)”, that many voices raised concerns on the high possibility to affect international fish trade and consumer perception of fish safety quality. However, FAO indicated that no epidemiological evidence of BSE being transmitted to ruminants or other animals by fishmeal and that there is likewise no evidence for the transmission to humans. However, FAO had been requested by its member to continue monitoring the relationship between fishmeal and BSE.

37. As for the issue on “Residues and Contamination in Fish and Fishery Products”, it is emphasized that the issue seen to have an impact on the trade is still the challenges in the present scenario of international fish trade. It was highlighted that while appreciating the growing awareness of the importance of HACCP based system applied in many countries, FAO also defines the concern on the importance and need of an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to safety and quality considering the entire food chain.

38. It was stressed that the above issues related to safety of fish and fishery products should be primarily addressed by concerned countries. Similar problems were noted with the detection of formalin in fishery products which illegal within national regulations, it is suggested that the Member Countries to strengthen the enforcement of regulations to avoid such problems in the future. In addition, issues of malachite green in fishery products might be of greater attention. In response, suggestion was made to gather more information on linkage between probiotics and heavy metals released during the decomposition of organic matter.

39. It was also suggested that the issues could be also addressed through the implementation of relevant measures under the ASEAN Roadmap for Fisheries Integration as well as the ASEAN Food Safety Network and SEAFDEC Fish and Fishery Products Safety Network.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

The FCG Meeting is invited to take note of information on the above issue.

2.8 Traceability

40. The issue of traceability was paid attention in the at the 26th Session of FAO COFI where concept matter was going around both at national and international level and to an extent a considerable thoughts was put on its impact on existing regulation including import regulation. Some countries expressed their concerning related to traceability requirement in some key markets for fish product by 2005, while some developing countries requested extra time in meeting these requirements. Special concern was raised with regards to the lack of unified definition of traceability at the Codex Alimentarius level and subsequently to tackle this problem, requested for FAO to coordinate further with Codex Alimentarius Committee (CAC).

41. At the RTC on International Fish Trade Related Issues 2006, note was taken on information from Thailand regarding the launching of a pilot project on computerized traceability, which focuses on the products from aquaculture shrimp farms to table.

Suggested Action by the Meeting

42. The FCG Meeting is invited to suggest future coordinated directions in exchanging information and sharing experiences within the region.

STATEMENT

*By Dr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, Asistant Director
Bureau of Resources Development, ASEAN Secretariat*

Madam Chairman,
Distinguished delegates from ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Representatives from FAO and SIDA,

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank SEAFDEC and Brunei Darussalam for organizing and inviting the ASEAN Secretariat to participate in this auspicious Meeting of the 38th SEAFDEC Council, and for giving me an opportunity to say something about ASEAN-SEFDEC collaboration in fisheries.

As you may be aware, the ASEAN and SEFDEC organizations have been established in the same year, since 1967. While scope and cooperation areas under the SEAFDEC framework have been focused on fisheries development, the ASEAN's goals have been emphasized in regional security and conflict solving. Later on with the achievement in regional stability and the changing global situation, ASEAN cooperation has been enhanced to promote socio-economic development and regional prosperity.

With the same goals and mandates to promote sustainable development in fisheries, ASEAN and SEAFDEC have formalized the collaboration since 1994, and continued to jointly implement the various agreed projects and collaborative activities, which have been successfully conducted through the FCG mechanism.

Again, during the 8th FCG Meeting yesterday as well as the 38th SEAFDEC Council Meeting today, we have heard the report on the successful implementation of various ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperative activities during the past year of 2005, as well as the proposed activities and programmes for the year 2006.

In this opportunity, I have a pleasure to report to you that the success and fruitful cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC have been continuously recognized by the annual meetings of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF). Especially, the 26th AMAF Meeting in Yangon in 2004 acknowledged the significant roles and contribution of SEAFDEC in the promotion of sustainable fisheries in the ASEAN region. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the Government of Japan for its strong support to the SEAFDEC, and agreed that ASEAN-Japan cooperation in fisheries should be further strengthened.

As a step further, the concept for establishing an ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) was tabled and considered by the 27th AMAF Meeting in September last year. The Meeting supported the proposed concept, and tasked the ASWGFⁱ to further work with SEAFDEC on the details to be considered AMAF this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The agreed concept of ASSP was further developed and supported by the 8th FCG meeting yesterday as well as the 38th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council today. It is suggested that the term of reference, scope and cooperation mechanism of the ASSP proposal be further submitted to ASWGFI, SOM-AMAF and AMAF for consideration and endorsement.

It is expected that the ASSP would enhance closer collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC by strengthening regional fisheries programmes and mechanism and to raising important fisheries issues for possible ASEAN-SEAFDEC coordinated position in the various international fora.

With this note, please allow me to end my short statement by hoping that the establishment of the ASSP would see the increasing cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC, deeper and broader.

Thank you.

STATEMENT

*By Mrs. Gunilla Greig, Assistant Head of Department
Swedish Board of Fisheries*

Madam Chair, Secretary General, distinguished delegates.

Before I say a few words about the co-operation between SEAFDEC and Sweden, I would like to thank SEAFDEC for inviting the Swedish Board of Fisheries to attend the SEAFDEC Council Meeting, as well as yesterday's Fisheries Consultative Group Meeting.

As Mr. Magnus pointed out at yesterday's meeting, the Swedish Board of Fisheries has to-date co-operated with SEAFDEC for more than two years in the implementation of a project supported by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency on Human Resources Development in Fisheries Management, in the spirit of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The co-operation between SEAFDEC and the Swedish Board of Fisheries is based on the support from and co-operation with Sida, as was referred to before lunch.

We, the Swedish Board of Fisheries, have noted – most recently at the Annual Review Meeting between the Swedish Board of Fisheries and SEAFDEC in December 2005 - the progress made in the project, and are looking forward to the Regional Technical Consultation on Fishing Capacity this autumn, where results will be presented and discussed.

The Swedish contribution to SEAFDEC is part of general Swedish Fisheries and Environmental Marine support to different global regions, channelled through fisheries and environmentally related organisations such as the FAO, UNEP and SEAFDEC, and is intended to be policy-oriented, and implemented in a regional or sub-regional context.

As mentioned yesterday, the current agreement between SEAFDEC and Sweden, administered by the Swedish Board of Fisheries, ends in December this year, and it is the Board's hope that co-operation will continue.

We note with interest that during and since the Annual Review Meeting between SEAFDEC and the Swedish Board of Fisheries last December, the SEAFDEC Secretariat has touched upon alternative issues that could be the subject of potential further Swedish support. However, the Swedish Board of Fisheries has currently no mandate to make any commitments regarding continued Swedish support, as this will have to be addressed directly by Sida at a later stage.

From discussions with the SEAFDEC Secretariat, both in general terms and regarding post-tsunami issues, we have understood that the balance between fishing fleet capacity and fish resources are important areas to address in a regional and sub-regional context. The importance of addressing fishing capacity was also highlighted at the Annual Review Meeting between SEAFDEC and the Swedish Board of Fisheries.

The integration of fisheries and environmental issues, through for example so-called “refugia”, is another important area that has been addressed by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, and which is generally supported by the Swedish Board of Fisheries when providing advice to SEAFDEC, Sida and others. Work on eco-labelling could be an interesting additional area of potential future co-operation, as discussed yesterday.

I very much appreciate being able to observe your discussions during these two meetings. I hope that both the SEAFDEC and ASEAN secretariats and their Member Country representatives will continue to share their experiences with me during the course of this week, as a basis for future dialogue and co-operation between Sweden and your region on fisheries management.

Once again, thank you for the invitation!

PROPOSAL ON SEAFDEC FUTURE OPERATION: PRE-REQUISITES AND POLICY DIRECTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the unclear SEAFDEC financial situation for 2006 and onward, SEAFDEC in consultation with the Member Countries has conducted a series of consultation to clarify scenarios and options for SEAFDEC future operation. As a basis for consideration and decision by the Council at the 38th Meeting, this proposal was prepared based on results of consultations, emphasizing that SEAFDEC future operation lies on the strong interests, commitments and collaborative spirit of all Member Countries on one hand. On the other is on relevance and benefits of SEAFDEC activities to the needs of the Member Countries.

It is crucial that SEAFDEC future operation lies on consideration and decision by the Council on:

- a) Pre-requisites for sustainable SEAFDEC future operation – These are full financial support of the Host countries to the Departments on their operating cost, and policy and budget scale of the Minimum Regular Contribution from all Member Countries;
- b) Enhancing technical cooperation and arrangement for non-traditional sources of fund; and
- c) Areas for immediate improvement of SEAFDEC operation – These include cost and manners for organizing annual regular meetings, SEAFDEC information tools for enhancing visibility and communication, adjustment of the program on Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) to Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN), operation of training and research vessels, and implementation of regional programs.

It is also proposed that based on the above policy directions and decision, directives for interim measures for the near future could be given before impacts of actions in line with the decision shall take effect. In addition, SEAFDEC long-term improvement and challenges could then be elaborated. Areas of long-term improvement and challenges include revisioning SEAFDEC future role and mandate, enhancing international visibility of SEAFDEC, improving SEAFDEC programming exercises, and promoting closer partnership with ASEAN in areas of mutual interests.

I. INTRODUCTION

Since 2003, SEAFDEC financial situation has signaled a continuous decline of regular contribution. At the Special Council Meeting (SCM) held from 14 to 15 November 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Secretary-General presented the current SEAFDEC financial situation for the year 2003 to 2005 and expressed his grave concern on the sustainable operation of the Center not only for the year 2006 but also in the long-term. In response to the continuous decline of regular contribution from Japan, the representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan informed the Council the financial situation as follows:

“With regards to the contribution to SEAFDEC for 2006, he expressed a severe difficult situation when securing budget from the Ministry of Finance due to:

- SEAFDEC is not sufficiently recognized by general public and various agencies in Japan; and*
- SEAFDEC is regarded as lower priority compared to other priority issues of ASEAN-Japan cooperation such as HIV-AIDS, Avian Influenza, etc.”*
(Paragraph 13 of the SCM report)

“...as for regular contribution for the year 2007 onward, he anticipated that the situation would be even more difficult including possibility of no regular contribution.”
(Paragraph 14 of the SCM report)

“He stressed on the fact that the next one year would be important to determine how SEAFDEC should continue its operation in the future. With the above anticipation, he requested SEAFDEC to readjust the operation plan considering the declining of financial support and possible discontinued financial support after 2006, taking into consideration the following:

- Sustainable financial resources from the ASEAN member countries;*
- Reviewing the Special 5-year program based on priority needs of member countries and reduced budgetary situation;*
- Developing a long-term plan for sustainable operation; and*
- Considering how to make SEAFDEC operates as a more efficient and streamlined organization.”* *(Paragraph 15 of the SCM report)*

In response to the above SEAFDEC difficult financial situation for 2006 and onward, the SCM directed SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive study clarifying scenarios and options for SEAFDEC future operation. The result of such a study was presented and discussed among the Member Countries, Secretariat and the Departments at the National Coordinators' Meeting (NCM) held on 6 December 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand. The NCM reaffirmed the importance and existence of SEAFDEC to assist the Member Countries in promoting sustainable development of fisheries through regional cooperation. As a major conclusion, the NCM requested the Secretariat in close consultation with the Departments and the Member Countries to develop a detailed proposal clarifying practical scenarios, options and necessary arrangements on SEAFDEC future operation.

This paper is the result of preliminary consultation among the Member Countries, the Secretariat and the Departments providing a detailed proposal for policy consideration and decision by the Council at the 38th Meeting to be held from 18 to 21 April 2006 in Brunei Darussalam.

II. CURRENT SEAFDEC FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

In accordance with the Article 11, Chapter IV on Finance of the Agreement Establishing the Center, SEAFDEC financial arrangement indicates that “the Member shall provide the Center, in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations and within the limits of their respective annual budgetary appropriations, with an agreed amount of money, movable and immovable property and services necessary for the establishment and the operation of the Center.” Based on this

provision, the main SEAFDEC financial support is generally obtained from regular budgetary source. However through the years additional financial support is also obtained from irregular budgetary source.

2.1 Funding from Regular Budgetary Source

With regard to funding from regular budgetary source, SEAFDEC currently receives funding support from three main sources, namely:

- i) From the Government of Japan through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which are generally used for the operating costs of the Secretariat, implementation of activities under the Special 5-year Program by the Secretariat and the Departments, and maintenance and operation of two SEAFDEC training and research vessels;
- ii) From the Member Countries hosting the Departments (Host Countries) namely Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia for the service, professional staff, and the operation of the Secretariat (in case of Thailand) and their respective Departments; and
- iii) Other incomes including from non-host Member Countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam in the form of membership fees, which are mainly used for the operating cost of the Secretariat.

The regular budgetary funding is legitimately defined based on the “Agreement Establishing the SEAFDEC of 1967” as any organizational incomes to be financially managed and annually audited and reported to the Council. Based on the contribution to SEAFDEC for the year 2003 to 2005 (**Appendix 1**), the total regular contribution and percentage of contribution among the Government of Japan, Host Countries (namely Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia) and Other incomes including Non-host Countries are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Regular Contribution to SEAFDEC for the Year 2003 to 2005

Sources	Contribution to SEAFDEC (US\$)					
	2003		2004		2005	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Japan	⁵ 1,753,925	25	⁶ 1,637,182	24	⁷ 1,057,823	18
Thailand	1,406,998	20	1,487,679	22	1,444,083	24
Singapore	993,431	14	1,050,597	16	690,757	12
Philippines	2,023,891	28	1,774,906	26	1,884,588	32
Malaysia	681,623	10	609,535	9	547,965	9
Others	258,798	3	220,599	3	316,469	5
Total	7,118,666	100	6,780,498	100	5,941,685	100

⁵ Including professional services for Japanese experts US\$453,925 but excluding contribution cost of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 amounted US\$4,879,334

⁶ Including professional services for Japanese experts US\$177,182 but excluding contribution cost of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 amounted US\$3,112,914

⁷ Including professional service fro Japanese experts US\$36,823

In addition to the above regular budgetary funding support, the Member Countries provide in-kind support to the programs of activities including sharing of information, support of experts and networking. Under the cost-sharing policy, the Member Countries also share cost in the participation of regular annual meetings, implementation of activities at the national levels, and utilization of training and research vessels.

It should be noted here that the operating cost of the Secretariat is used for organizing annual meetings of the Center (i.e. Council meetings, Program Committee meetings, ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) meetings, SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' meetings), SEAFDEC information activities (i.e. homepage, promotional brochures and publication, regular publications – newsletters, annual reports, etc.), Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) program, and non-program expenditure. Regarding the operating cost of the Departments, most Departments except MFRD receive operating cost as part of the regular contribution from the respective host countries. In case of MFRD, the operating cost is arranged, based on a Council Resolution, in the form of “counterpart funding”, which the government of Singapore would provide in the ratio of 1:2 with the maximum of US\$40,000/year in accordance with the annual regular contribution from Japan to the Department.

2.2 Funding from Extra Budgetary Sources

Funding from extra budgetary sources is generally obtained in the form of trust funds (i.e. Japanese Trust Funds, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), FAO, the ASEAN Foundation, etc.). This type of funding is basically used for project activities of regional programs, most of which are implemented under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism. As SEAFDEC has a responsibility to appropriately manage and audit these project funds and report to the respective donors, financial management system should be outside of the SEAFDEC legitimate accounting system. However, agency cost of these trust funds should be included in the SEAFDEC account system under “Other Incomes” as mentioned above. Funding from extra budgetary sources to SEAFDEC for the year 1998 to 2006 is shown in **Appendix 2**.

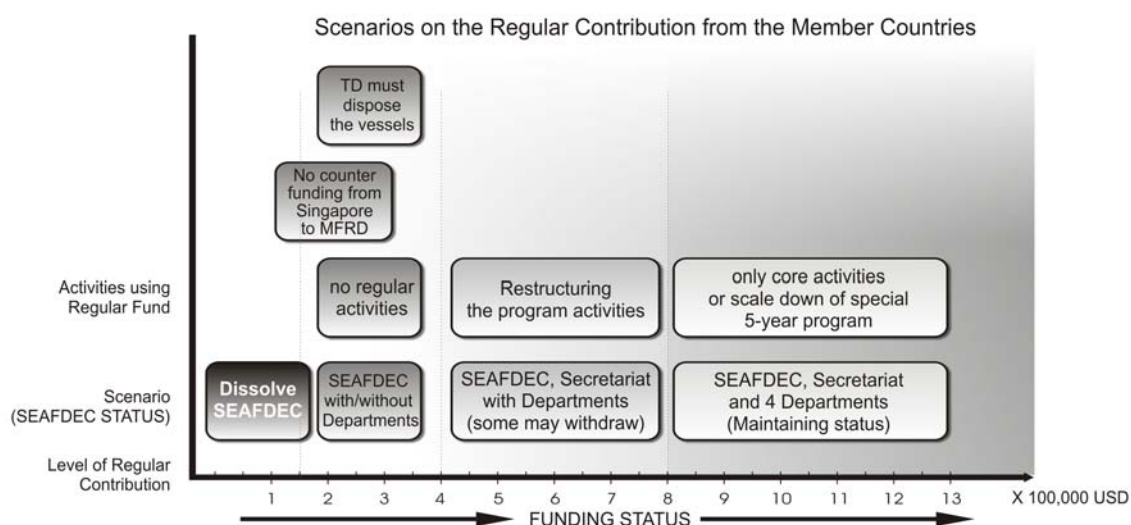
III. SCENARIOS FOR SEAFDEC FUTURE OPERATION

Considering that SEAFDEC future operation will firstly depend on the level of regular contribution from the Member Countries, scenarios for SEAFDEC future operation are shown in **Table 2** and **Figure 1**

Table 2: Scenarios for SEAFDEC Future Operation

Level of Regular Contribution (US\$)	SEAFDEC Status	Activities Using Regular Funds
Beyond 0.8 m	SEAFDEC Secretariat and four Departments maintain the main current organizational structure.	Activities under the Special 5-year Program are maintained with some adjustment on scale of activities depending on the level of funding.
0.4 m to 0.8 m	Most of current SEAFDEC structure (Secretariat and the Departments) is maintained while some host countries may withdraw hosting their respective Departments.	SEAFDEC programs need to be restructured. Main activities are supported by extra budgetary sources.
0.15 m to 0.4	SEAFDEC is composed of the Secretariat with or without Departments	No regular activities. Training and research vessels must be disposed.
Below 0.15 m	SEAFDEC is dissolved.	

Figure 1: Scenario on the Regular Contribution from the Member Countries



IV. PRE-REQUISITES AND POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE SEAFDEC FUTURE

According to the discussion made at the Special Council Meeting (SCM) and National Coordinators’ Meeting (NCM), future roles of SEAFDEC should emphasize on facilitation of regional fisheries cooperation among the Member Countries by providing technical services and policy advices on regional priority issues and regional platform for exchange of information and expertise in fisheries. Respective SEAFDEC Departments should emphasize on its coordinating role at the regional level on their areas of competence by mobilizing expertise and networking within and outside the region.

In view of ensuring SEAFDEC future operation, the following pre-requisites and issues are proposed for consideration.

4.1 Pre-requisites for Sustainable SEAFDEC Future Operation

In order for SEAFDEC operation to be sustainable in the future, the following two major pre-requisites need to be achieved:

- a) Full financial support of the Host countries to the Departments on their operating cost; and
- b) Policy on the Minimum Regular Contribution from all Member Countries

4.1.1 Full financial support of the Host countries to the Departments on their operating cost

To enable the organization to function effectively, it is important that the Host Countries namely Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia shall assume full financial responsibility for the operating cost for their respective Departments.

4.1.2 Policy on the Minimum Regular Contribution from all Member Countries

It is crucial that all Member Countries would share financial responsibility to provide Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to SEAFDEC to allow its operation to continue at least at the minimum level. In addition, the MRC will also help the Host countries to justify annual budgetary support to the Departments. It is therefore important that the Member Countries will consider and decide on the Policy on MRC, of which covers only minimum operating cost of SEAFDEC amounted US\$400,000. The proposed indicative MRC is shown in **Table 3**

Table 3 Proposed Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) for the year 2007 and Onward

Countries	MRC (Operating Cost Only)	Regular Contribution ⁸	Total (Operating Cost Only)	
			Contribution	%
Brunei	7,000	-	7,000	0.1
Cambodia	6,000	-	6,000	0.1
Indonesia	26,000	-	26,000	0.4
Japan	280,000	437,182	717,182	12.5
Lao PDR	4,000	-	4,000	0.1
Malaysia,	10,000	609,535	619,535	10.8
Myanmar	10,000	-	10,000	0.2
Philippines	15,000	1,774,906	1,789,906	31.1

⁸ Such as contribution in-cash and in-kind of the Host Countries to the Departments, in-kind contribution (professional services of Japanese experts) from Japan. The figure is based on the Regular Contribution to SEAFDEC for the year 2004.

Singapore	8,000	1,050,597	1,058,597	18.4
Thailand	20,000	1,487,679	1,507,679	26.1
Vietnam	14,000	-	14,000	0.2
Total	400,000	5,359,899	5,759,899	100

According to preliminary responses on non-committal obtained by the Secretary-General during his informal consultation with the Member Countries in December 2005 to February 2006, a number of Member Countries have expressed possibility to take up the MRC but many of them have also expressed difficulty to take up the MRC for the year 2007.

A number of Member Countries also expressed the need for the Government of Japan to provide views and policy on her future financial support to SEAFDEC, as the information would be an important input for policy discussion and decision on SEAFDEC future operation. As a follow-up action, the Secretary-General sent an official letter dated 26 January 2006 to the Council Director for Japan requesting response on the above suggestion including policy and indication for future support through the Japanese Trust Funds to SEAFDEC.

In taking up the MRC, a number of countries expressed their short term constraint that they would need 2 to 3 years to process this requirement within their respective country and therefore request an interim measure to sustain the operation of the Center for the near future until the arrangement for MRC is in place. In addition, based on the criteria and adjustment factors for calculating the MRC, it is proposed that level of MRC will be reviewed on a regular basis such as every 5 years in order that the MRC reflects conditions determining the MRC.

The Host Countries also took note of the need for consultation with respective Departments to develop national policy and arrangement for assuming full responsibility for the operating cost of their Departments. The national policy and arrangement may include staff management and development, operation of facilities and equipment, etc.

4.2 Enhancing Technical Cooperation and Arrangement for Non-traditional Sources of Fund

Regardless of scale of MRC is concluded, major or some SEAFDEC future activities will have to depend on extra-budgetary or non-traditional sources. This is in order to maximize the potential and capacity of the Center for the benefits of the Member Countries. It is therefore crucial that a policy framework should be developed to facilitate efforts in promoting future activities. The policy should not mainly target at sourcing amount of funds but rather to explore possibility to expand activities based on core programs of the Center in line with the mandate and priority interests of the Member Countries. This can be done in a number of ways ranging from enhancing technical cooperation, establishing partnerships and networking, and sourcing funds from non-traditional sources.

SEAFDEC needs to strengthen ties with other agencies including the funding institutions. Collaborative partners and donors both within and outside the region (Japanese Trust Funds, ASEAN Foundation, FAO/GEF, Sida, etc) that were promoted since 1999 should be continued and even enhanced to include other institutions (APEC, Norad, GTZ, etc.). In sourcing funds, efforts should not only be focused on scale of funding but also diversifying sources of funds. This is to help stabilize funding support to technical programs/projects.

These outsourced funding should always be one of the major concerns to be discussed at Council and Program Committee meetings. In addition, Policy Guidance should be developed to facilitate actions by the Secretariat and the Departments when seeking funding support from non-traditional sources including through the ASEAN collaborative mechanism. Basic protocols for enhancing technical cooperation and sourcing funds should be developed. The Council's policy directives for enhancing cooperation and arrangement for non-traditional sources of funds are therefore envisaged.

4.3 Areas for Immediate Improvement of SEAFDEC Operation

Based on the decision made on items 4.1 and 4.2, SEAFDEC operation should be adjusted particularly in cost-effective manner.

4.3.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Secretariat

Improvement of the Secretariat operation including economizing the operating cost is in the following areas:

- a) Streamlining SEAFDEC annual meetings, namely Council, Program Committee, ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG), and Department Chiefs' meetings – duration, arrangement and conducts of the above meetings will be reviewed so as to minimize the operating cost in cost-effective manner.
- b) Improving SEAFDEC information tools and activities for enhancing visibility and communication – through the Center-wide Information Network program, the Secretariat has, in consultation with the Departments, developed draft “Information Strategy for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication”. The Strategy provides policy directions and framework for improvement and maximization of SEAFDEC existing information tools including cutting cost for production and distribution of information.
- c) Adjustment of program on Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) – while the Member Countries supported the continuation of WGRFP, however the arrangement and manner of operating this program should be adjusted. Suggestion was made to convert the WGRFP program into the “SEAFDEC Regional Fisheries Policy Network.” This new Network should work to support policy review and study on priority issues as a basis for formulation of policy recommendations for the Member Countries. Outputs of the WGRFP after consultation with the Member Countries and the Departments should be further disseminated through existing information and communication channels including SEAFDEC integrated homepage and the special publication on “Fish for the People”. The Network is

coordinated by the Secretariat with members from the Member Countries and SEAFDEC Departments. As for the Network members from the Member Countries, the experience from the WGRFP program can be used with appropriate adjustment in terms of qualification and experiences of nominees, consideration for virtual Network members through e-mail communication in addition to the seconded members stationed at the Secretariat, readjustment of cost-sharing arrangement between SEAFDEC and nominating countries, identification of clear term of reference for those who will be stationed at the Secretariat, and sourcing of funds from other sources to support the Network activities. The Council's directives on the establishment of SEAFDEC Regional Fisheries Policy Network are envisaged for elaboration of detailed framework and term of reference. .

4.3.2 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels

Improvement and economizing of the maintenance and operation of SEAFDEC training and research vessels are as follows:

- a) M.V. SEAFDEC – for immediate future, Thailand has generally agreed to provide support for the maintenance cost of M.V. SEAFDEC through its regular contribution to TD. For medium/long-term measure, Thailand and TD are investigating possibility for decision to be made for M.V. SEAFDEC, for example, sourcing of funds from other agencies to finance its operation and maintenance, transfer to other institutions; and disposal of the vessel.
- b) M.V. SEAFDEC 2 – maintenance cost and cost related to the planning and operation of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 need to be economized. This is for example the annual meetings of eligible countries committee and operational committee can be incorporated into or held as part of future Program Committee meetings.

4.3.3 Implementation of Regional Programs by the Secretariat and the Departments

Item b) of the above pre-requisites indicates that operating cost and arrangement of SEAFDEC Departments will be in accordance with national policy of the respective host Countries. However, operation of SEAFDEC Departments particularly with respect to the implementation of regional programs should be conducted in cost-effective manner including the manner of organizing regional technical meetings and consultations so as to reduce cost and enhance impacts of work and benefit to the Member Countries. Implementation of cost-sharing policy between the Member Countries and SEAFDEC should be continued.

4.4 Long-Term Improvement

After achieving the items 4.1 to 4.3, SEAFDEC should look further into re-evaluating/revisiting its policies for future operation. The following are areas for long-term improvement:

- a) Revisioning SEAFDEC future role and mandate – all Member Countries, the Secretariat and the Departments should clarify mandate and key role of SEAFDEC in the future. This revisioning exercise would provide a basis for streamlining structure and operation of the Center. The Center may need to revise its

organizational structure to reduce unnecessary organizational hindrance or procedural matters. It should be noted that some Departments such as AQD and TD have been in the process of this exercise. Measures that have been taken to optimize the use of limited funding and resources are reformulation of Departmental strategic plan, adjustment of number and structure of manpower, etc.

- b) Enhancing international visibility of SEAFDEC – SEAFDEC should explore how its profile can be raised within the Member Countries and international fora. Development of action plan under the Center-wide Information Network program of the Secretariat under the framework of Information Strategic Plan for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication should be further developed.
- c) Improving SEAFDEC programming exercises – future SEAFDEC programs of activity should focus on regional priority fisheries issues or objectives, which benefit to all Member Countries. Demarcation of regular programs of activities and that of Trust Funds should be made to avoid duplication. Cost-sharing policy for implementing SEAFDEC activities should be continued and further elaborated.
- d) Promoting closer partnership with ASEAN in areas of mutual interests – the issue of partnership between SEAFDEC and ASEAN is referred in a separate document entitled “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership”.

V. SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider and decide on issues as proposed above particularly on policy and directives related to:

- a) Pre-requisites for sustainable SEAFDEC future operation – These are full financial support of the Host countries to the Departments on their operating cost, and policy and budget scale of the Minimum Regular Contribution from all Member Countries;
- b) Enhancing technical cooperation and arrangement for non-traditional sources of fund; and
- c) Areas for immediate improvement of SEAFDEC operation – These include cost and manners for organizing annual regular meetings, SEAFDEC information tools for enhancing visibility and communication, adjustment of the program on Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) to Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN), operation of training and research vessels, and implementation of regional programs.

Based on the above policy decision and directives, the Council is also requested to provide directives on:

- a) Interim measures for the near future before impacts of actions in line with the above decision shall take effect.
- b) SEAFDEC long-term improvement and challenges such as revisioning SEAFDEC future role and mandate, enhancing international visibility of SEAFDEC, improving SEAFDEC programming exercises, and promoting closer partnership with ASEAN in areas of mutual interests.

REGULAR CONTRIBUTION TO SEAFDEC FOR THE YEAR 2003 TO 2005**I. REGULAR CONTRIBUTION TO SEAFDEC FOR THE YEAR 2003**

(In US\$)

Donors	In Cash	In Kind	Unspent Fund	Total	%
Japan	300,000	5,333,259	1,000,000	6,633,259	55
Thailand	1,406,998	0	0	1,406,998	12
Singapore	40,000	953,431	0	993,431	8
Philippines	2,023,891	0	0	2,023,891	17
Malaysia	0	681,623	0	681,623	6
Others	258,798	0	0	258,798	2
Total	4,029,687	6,968,313	1,000,000	11,998,000	100

US\$

- a) Contribution in kind from Japan = US\$ 5,333,259
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1) Contribution cost of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 (Partial payment) | 4,879,334 |
| 2) Professional services for Japanese Experts | 453,925 |
- b) Japan Unspent Fund (Accumulated Fund) = US\$ 1,000,000
- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1) Special 5-year Programs (US\$160,000 x 5) | 800,000 |
| 2) Ship maintenance and operation cost for vessels | 200,000 |
- c) Contribution from Others = US\$ 258,798
- | | |
|---|--------|
| Annual membership contribution from Brunei | 4,000 |
| Annual membership contribution from Myanmar | 3,894 |
| Annual membership contribution from Vietnam | 4,000 |
| Annual membership contribution from Cambodia (for 2 years) | 8,000 |
| Annual membership contribution from Indonesia (for 3 years) | 12,000 |
| Australian Center for International Agriculture Research | 3,261 |
| Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources | 53,970 |
| Degussa Texturant | 11,047 |
| DOST-10 | 2,993 |
| Edmund Mercado | 6,099 |
| International Foundation for Science | 9,031 |
| IUCN | 611 |
| Japan International Cooperation Agency | 60,240 |
| JIRCUS | 18,799 |
| UNESCO | 11,716 |
| US AID | 49,137 |

II. REGULAR CONTRIBUTION TO SEAFDEC FOR THE YEAR 2004

(In US\$)

Donors	In Cash	In Kind	Unspent Fund	Total	%
Japan	260,000	3,290,096	1,200,000	4,750,096	48
Thailand	1,487,679	0	0	1,487,679	15
Singapore	40,000	1,010,597	0	1,050,597	11
Philippines	1,774,906	0	0	1,774,906	18
Malaysia	0	609,535	0	609,535	6
Others	220,599	0	0	220,599	2
Total	3,783,184	4,910,228	1,200,000	9,893,412	100

US\$

- a) Contribution in kind from Japan = US\$ 3,290,096
- 1) Contribution cost of M.V.SEAFDEC 2 (Balance payment) 3,112,914
 - 2) Professional services for Japanese Experts 177,182
- b) Japan Unspent Fund (Accumulated Fund) = US\$ 1,200,000
- 1) Special 5-year Programs (US\$160,000 x 5) 800,000
 - 2) Ship maintenance and operation cost for vessels 400,000
- c) Contribution from Others = US\$ 220,599
- Annual membership contribution from Brunei 4,000
 - Annual membership contribution from Myanmar 4,000
 - Annual membership contribution from Lao PDR 4,000
 - Annual membership contribution from Indonesia 4,000
 - Annual membership contribution from Cambodia 4,000
 - Annual membership contribution from Lao PDR 4,000
 - Asian Agronomics Inc. 8,875
 - AUSAID - PACAP 17,305
 - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 70,996
 - BFAR/world fish 5,297
 - Cavite State University Naic Campus 8,875
 - Degussa Texturant -12,108
 - Edmund Mercado 3,169
 - European Commission 28,437
 - Fisheries Research Agency Japan 12,454
 - Frabelle Fishing Corp. 1,775
 - Ghent University 3,812
 - ICLARM -470
 - Japan International Cooperation Agency 1,886
 - JIRCUS 22,926
 - Ngatpang State Palau 16,180
 - US AID 7,190

III. REGULAR CONTRIBUTION TO SEAFDEC FOR THE YEAR 2005

Donors	In Cash	In Kind	Unspent Fund	Total	%
Japan	221,000	36,823	800,000	1,057,823	18
Thailand	1,444,083	0		1,444,083	24
Singapore	40,000	650,757		690,757	12
Philippines	1,884,588	0		1,884,588	32
Malaysia	0	547,965		547,965	10
Others	316,469	0		316,469	5
Total	3,906,140	1,235,545	800,000	5,941,685	100

US\$

- a) Contribution in kind from Japan = US\$36,823
- 1) Professional services for Japanese Experts (TD and AQD) 36,823
- b) Japan Unspent Fund (Accumulated Fund) = US\$ 800,000
- 1) Special 5-year Programs (US\$100,000 x 5) 500,000
- 2) Ship maintenance and operation cost for vessels 300,000
- c) Contribution from Others = US\$ 316,469
- Annual membership contribution from Brunei 4,000
- Annual membership contribution from Myanmar 4,000
- Annual membership contribution from Lao PDR 4,000
- Annual membership contribution from Indonesia 4,000
- Annual membership contribution from Cambodia 4,000
- Annual membership contribution from Lao PDR 4,000
- Grant contribution to AQD for the year 2005(No Details) 292,469

FUNDING FROM EXTRA BUDGETARY SOURCES TO SEAFDEC FOR THE YEAR 2003 TO 2006

Other sources Contribution to SEAFDEC in 1998-2006

(In US\$)

	Fishery Agency - Japan				Sida Project	ASEAN Project	FAO Project	Total
	TF-I	TF-II	TF-III	TF-IV				
1998	213,895							213,895
1999	899,725							899,725
2000	899,725					418,275 1/		1,318,000
2001	899,725					182,930 2/		1,082,655
2002	789,106	650,373				200,000 3/	23,000 6/	1,662,479
2003	789,106	326,672	244,147		192,602		10,000 6/	1,562,527
2004		588,712	244,147	815,855	300,077		28,700 6/	1,977,491
2005		588,712	244,147		171,638	168,841 4/	10,000 6/	1,183,338
2006		588,712	244,147	815,855	137,702	349,450 5/		2,135,866
Total	4,491,282	2,743,181	976,588	1,631,710	802,019	1,319,496	71,700	12,035,976

Remarks

- 1/ Actual contribution from ASEAN Foundation for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries in the New Millennium; "Food Security-Fish for the People" for the period Dec.1,2000 to Dec.27,2001.

- 2/ Actual contribution from ASEAN Foundation for the project on the Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries through South-South Cooperation in the Region for the year 2001 for the period June 1-October 31,2001.
- 3/ Actual contribution from ASEAN Foundation for the project on the Capacity Building for the Improvement of the Fisheries Statistical System in the ASEAN Region for the period August 1,2002 to July 31,2004.
- 4/ 70% of actual contribution from ASEAN Foundation for the project on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Sustainable Development of Fisheries in Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Region for the period 2005-2006.(Total budget from ASEAN = US\$241,201)
- 5/ 70% of estimated contribution from ASEAN Foundation for the project on Human Resource Development (HRD) on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region for the period 2006-2007. (Total budget from ASEAN = US\$493,720)
- 6/ Partial received from FAO (Total budget from FAO = US\$77,700).

**EXCERPT FROM THE REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL AND SECOND
MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF SEAFDEC**

(18 to 21 March 1968, Bangkok, Thailand)

(Page 4, Paragraph 25)

a) Research Department

25. The Director for Singapore gave a brief review of the progress made in the setting up of the Research Department, and informed the Council that a piece of land and existing Research and other buildings estimated at about US\$ 800,000 would be allocated by the Singapore Government for the use of the Research Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. A request has also been made to the Singapore Government for the necessary fund to provide for furniture and office equipment for the Research Department. In addition, the Singapore Government has agreed in principle to contribute towards the total annual operating cost of the Research Department in accordance with the following formula:

- (a) That the Singapore Government will pay not more than US\$ 400,000, being not more than one third of the estimated total annual running cost of US\$ 400,000
- (b) That the Singapore Government is not liable to pay more than US\$ 400,000 should the annual running cost increase.
- (c) That the Singapore Government's contribution will be reduced should the total annual running cost decrease or should there be additional contribution or income from other sources.

**REVISED PLAN OF OPERATION AND PROGRAM OF WORK OF
THE MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
(Source: SEAFDEC Basic Documents 1996-2001)**

I. THE PLAN OF OPERATION OF THE MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

In order to accelerate the development of fishery post-harvest technology in Southeast Asia, the Plan of Operation of the Marine Fisheries Research Department, which is located at Changi Point, Singapore, is as follows:

1. The Marine Fisheries Research Department has these functions:
 - (i) To promote, undertake and coordinate research on post-harvest technology directed towards maximal utilization of available fish resources, and to further the development of the fish processing industry in the region;
 - (ii) To examine the problems related to the handling, preservation, and quality control of fish and fish products, and to recommend measures to upgrade the quality of fish and fish products in the region;
 - (iii) To establish an effective system for the smooth transfer of post-harvest technology to the region through workshops, training programs, publications, etc; and
 - (iv) To undertake such other activities as may be determined by the Council of the Center.

2. The Government of Singapore provides the Marine Fisheries Research Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, with the following:
 - (i) Land at Changi Point;
 - (ii) Buildings with floor space to accommodate the Department;
 - (iii) Furniture and equipment, including vehicles;
 - (iv) Services of professional and service staff; and
 - (v) An amount of money as an annual contribution towards the operational expenses of the Department.

3. The Government of Japan provides the Marine Fisheries Research Department, in accordance with the provision of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, with the following:
 - (i) Services of professional staff;
 - (ii) An amount of money in Yen for the purchase of the necessary laboratory and processing equipment for post-harvest technology, including adequate facilities for a pilot processing plant for feasibility studies and extension demonstrations,
 - (iii) An amount of money in U.S. dollars to provide fellowships and training equipment for trainees from Member Countries; and



- (iv) An amount of money in U.S. dollars as an annual contribution towards the operational expenses of the Department.

4. In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Marine Fisheries Research Department seeks financial and technical assistance from potential donor governments and agencies to enable it to fulfill its functions and the objectives of the Center.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

1. The Marine Fisheries Research Department has the following responsibilities:
 - (i) To conduct research and investigations on post-harvest technology directed towards maximal utilization of available fish resources, including development of a wide range of products from under-utilized fish resources, with a view to their industrialization;
 - (ii) To investigate problems related to the handling, preservation and quality control of fish and fish products, with a view to recommending methods to reduce wastage, and to improve the quality of fish and fish products in the region; and
 - (iii) To effectively transfer technology and disseminate knowledge and information on post-harvest technology to the region through workshops, training programs, publications, etc.

2. The activities of the Marine Fisheries Research Department are:
 - (a) Post-harvest Technology
 - (i) To develop a wide range of products acceptable to consumers in the region, including products from under-utilized fish resources for human consumption;
 - (ii) To improve and upgrade the quality of traditional and comminuted fish products, and existing fish processing techniques in the region;
 - (iii) To study technical problems concerning industrialization of products developed by the Department;
 - (iv) To examine problems related to wet fish handling and preservation in the region, and recommend measures to upgrade the quality of fish;
 - (v) To examine and review present standards for quality control, process control, quality assessment and fish inspection with a view to recommending acceptable standards for quality controls of fish and fish products; and
 - (vi) To develop and carry out investigations on the handling and transportation of live aquatic animals over long distances and long periods of time.

(b) Other Activities

In connection with the above, the Marine Fisheries Research Department will also carry out the following activities:

- (i) Provide information on its activities and results of research to Member Countries and interested organizations/agencies;
- (ii) Exchange information of mutual interest with research institutions, and hold symposia/expert meetings or workshops, and conduct cooperative research;
- (iii) Receive trainees from Member Countries, and other countries as approved by the Council of the Center, for transfer of research skills and applied technology;
- (iv) Promote specialized training for Department staff at institutions overseas; and
- (v) Engage in cooperative activities with Member Countries and non-member countries and regional/international organizations/agencies.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

The Marine Fisheries Research Department shall have a Chief and a Deputy Chief. Under the offices of the Chief and Deputy Chief are the following:

- (i) General Affairs Divisions, comprising Administration, Finance and Information Sections. These sections will provide support activities for the Department.
- (ii) Post-harvest Technology Division, comprising Processing Laboratory, Fish Handling and Preservation, and Training and Extension Section. Activities carried out by these sections will include product development; improvement of traditional and comminuted products; utilization of low market value fish; quality control; fish chemistry; fish microbiology; handling, preservation and packaging of live, chilled and frozen fish and fish products; and training, extension and related activities.

Annex 15

INDICATIVE ANNUAL MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (USD)

Country	Minimum Regular Contribution (USD)
Brunei Darussalam	7,000
Cambodia	6,000
Indonesia	26,000
Japan	280,000
Lao PDR	4,000
Malaysia	10,000
Myanmar	10,000
Philippines	15,000
Singapore	8,000
Thailand	20,000
Vietnam	14,000

CALCULATION OF MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC) FOR SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES



Country	GDP ⁹ (Million US\$)	% of Membership Fee	Total Fishery Production of All Fishing Areas ¹⁰ (MT)	Adjustment Factors of % of MRC				MRC after Adjustment		Round-up Figure by Countries Grouping
				Donor & Recipient Countries	City or Urban State/Landlocked Countries	Host/Non-host Countries	Fishery Production	%	US\$ (of 400,000)	
Brunei	54,626	1	2,175	+1.5	-0.5	+0.33	-0.5	1.83	7,320	7,000
Cambodia	4,215	0	382,857	+1.5	+0.15	+0.33	-0.5	1.48	5,920	6,000
Indonesia	208,625	4	5,671,795	+1.5	+0.22	+0.33	+0.5	6.55	26,200	26,000
Japan	4,326,000	85	5,455,828	-15	-	-	-	70.00	280,000	280,000
Lao PDR	12	0	94,700	+1.5	-0.5	+0.33	-0.5	0.83	3,320	4,000 ¹¹
Malaysia	103,737	2	1,454,244	+1.5	+0.22	-0.5	-0.5	2.72	10,880	10,000
Myanmar	9,605	0	1,606,252	+1.5	+0.22	+0.33	+0.5	2.55	10,200	10,000
Philippines	79,270	2	2,628,779	+1.5	+0.22	-0.5	+0.5	3.72	14,880	15,000
Singapore	91,355	2	7,109	+1.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	2.00	8,000	8,000
Thailand	143,303	3	3,590,452	+1.5	+0.22	-0.5	+0.5	4.72	18,880	20,000 ¹²
Vietnam	39,021	1	2,604,388	+1.5	+0.22	+0.33	+0.5	3.55	14,200	14,000
Total	5,059,769	100	23,498,579	0	0.03	0.02	0	99.95	399,800	400,000

⁹ GDP of ASEAN Member Countries for the year 2003 base on the background information appeared in ASEAN Secretariat website (www.aseansec.org).

GDP of Japan base on fact at the ASEAN-Japan Center - - <http://www.asean.or.jp/eng/general/base/glance2004.html>

¹⁰ FAO Fisheries Department Statistical Databases and Software: Total production 1950-2003 (Release date: March 2005)

¹¹ The current Membership Fee is US\$4,000.

¹² The current annual contribution of Thailand to the Secretariat is US\$20,000.

Explanatory Notes of Calculation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) for SEAFDEC Member Countries

Introduction

Considering the minimum operating cost of SEAFDEC, it should be noted that the proposed total contribution from the Member Countries in the form of annual 'Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)' amount of US\$400,000 will be used for the operating cost of the Secretariat and maintenance cost of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 by Training Department (TD). The operating cost of the Secretariat includes cost for a) organizing annual meetings of SEAFDEC (i.e. Council meetings, Program Committee meetings, ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) meetings, SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' meetings), b) SEAFDEC information activities (i.e. homepage, promotional brochures and publication, regular publications – newsletters, annual reports, etc.), c) Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) program, and d) non-program expenditure.

Allocation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)

Considering sustainability issues of SEAFDEC, it might be necessary to revise the non-host regular contribution to SEAFDEC revising the current flat rate of US\$4,000 to the system that the Member Countries can more share the financial responsibility for the sustainability of SEAFDEC. The principle for allocation of MRC is calculated base on a certain criteria such as GDP (Gross Domestic Product). It can be justified that the countries which have high GDP should provide more benefit contribution to the organization than other low GDP countries.

Criteria and Factors in the Calculation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)

Using of GDP as criteria for allocation of MRC is an appropriate indicator that has been widely applied in other regional fisheries organizations for example Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA). However, only the GDP rate could not reflex the real benefit contribution to the organization, therefore, other relevant factors are also taken into consideration for appropriate allocation of MRC. Accordingly, other significant criteria and factors for the calculation of MRC for SEAFDEC then take into account of Donor Contribution, City State/Urban Government/Landlocked Countries, Host and Non-host Countries, and Total Fishery Production. Adjustment factors of percent of MRC can be explained as follow:

- Donor Contribution: Base on percentage calculation of GDP, the donor country will responsible for 85% of MRC, in contradict to the fact that, the donor will receive benefit less than recipient countries, so that the adjustment scale should consider the existing equivalent MRC, which is 15% remaining. With that reason, it is estimated that the recipient countries shall share responsibility of 1.5% as equivalent.
- City State/Urban Government/Landlocked Countries: It is understood that small states and/or landlocked countries could not deliver for all respect of SEAFDEC, accordingly Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR and Singapore should be diminished 0.5%

individually. In addition, Cambodia as a country which has Great Lake, it is anticipated to add more 0.15% for MRC. Consequently the remaining countries shall share responsibility of for 0.22% as equivalent. (It is noted that this factor is not applicable to Japan due to a position of donor.)

- **Host/Non-host Countries:** Regarding the administrative operating cost of the Departments, most Departments receive operating cost as part of the regular contribution from the respective host countries, it is justified that the diminishing of % of MRC for the 0.5% for Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand should be applied. Consequently the remaining countries shall share responsibility of for 0.33% as equivalent. (It is noted that this factor is not applicable to Japan due to a position of donor.)
- **Fishery Production:** It is assumed that the country which has high total fishery production would gain more benefit from the organization than others. Therefore, increasing 0.5% of MRC is applied for all countries that have % rank of fishery production more than 50%. (It is noted that this factor is not applicable to Japan due to a position of donor.)

Consequently, the MRC after adjustment is calculated from the summation of adjustment factors of % of MRC, and then converted to US Dollars base on basis requirement of the minimum operating cost of SEAFDEC.

DRAFT

**INFORMATION STRATEGIES
FOR ENHANCING SEAFDEC VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION**

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Since establishment in 1967, SEAFDEC has been supporting Member Countries in the development of fisheries in the region. In 1998, SEAFDEC adopted the “Strategic Plan”, which allows the Centre to embark on the new challenges to support Member Countries in response to the new fisheries requirements at international, regional and national levels. The Strategic Plan provides a new framework for development of SEAFDEC programs of activity from on-going routine activities to issue/project-based activities on issues of common concerns/interests among the Member Countries.

Further in 2001, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People” adopted the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region.” The Resolution and Plan of Action provides the regional policy framework and priority actions in achieving sustainable fisheries in the region. To assist the Member Countries in the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of action, the Special 5-year Program and other regional programs have been initiated under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaboration through their Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) (mechanism as well as in collaboration with other international/regional organizations (FAO, ASEM, APEC, UNEP/GEF, MRC, WFC, etc.).

Supplementing the above directions and efforts, the role of information and communication has become increasingly important. The recent demands for information and communication are information exchange and sharing, information dissemination to support/publicize ASEAN-SEAFDEC seriousness, common policy and initiatives on issues of international concerns (CCRF, Fish Trade, Conservation, etc.), and raising of SEAFDEC profiles at various levels.

Under the Strategic Plan, the recommendation on the implementation of SEAFDEC Strategic Plan includes formulation of Communication and Information Policies aiming at enhancing communication within the organization, between the Member Countries and SEAFDEC as well as the visibility of the Centre to public. While noting the past efforts and activities of SEAFDEC under these policies, the 37th Meeting of the Council, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in April 2005, stressed that further efforts were needed to promote the role of SEAFDEC to the public. The Council supported that publicity and visibility building should be incorporated into programs of activity, particularly under current financial situation in which the awareness raising on SEAFDEC roles and contributions to Member Countries, as well as raising SEAFDEC profile to enhance more technical cooperation and support fund raising initiatives are urgently required.

To cope up with the situation and emerging issues mentioned above, the Sixth Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Exchange Program (ISEP) was organized in December 2005, Pattaya, Thailand to discuss ways and means for the promotion of SEAFDEC visibility and achievements. The Meeting came up with the Information Strategies for Enhancing Visibility and Communication of SEAFDEC to be used as basis and guidance for future formulation and implementation of future SEAFDEC information activities.

II. INFORMATION STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING SEAFDEC VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

Based on the Strategic Plan adopted in 1998, Information Strategies for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication is proposed with the view that “*SEAFDEC shall be a sustained and unified Centre of Excellence for Tropical Fisheries Information, accessible to all committed to sustainable fisheries development and food security, working for the benefit of its Member Countries, in close collaboration with the ASEAN and fishery related organizations regionally and globally.*”

2.1 Strategic Goals

Based on the above Information Strategies, the following are goals to be achieved by 2010:

- Increase the demand for SEAFDEC information materials and make these available;
- Increase the use of distributed information (with clear benefits) by the Member Countries;
- Enhance consultation and partnership among SEAFDEC and other organizations in information development and dissemination;
- Unify outputs and organizational image through better internal and external communication;
- Enhance capacity of information staff meet professional standards; and
- SEAFDEC information becomes more financially self-reliant.

2.2 Strategies

The Information Strategies for Enhancing Visibility and Communication contains eight key strategies to achieve the strategic goals. These strategies, together with related actions, are set out below.

Strategy 1: Production of relevant, timely, and useful information materials to meet the requirements of the target audience

Required actions:

- Set up a regular feedback mechanism from target groups
- Streamline purpose and usage of the existing information tools
- Match the extent of information materials produced with current capacity
- Develop guidelines and standards for quality information materials
- Contract short-term consultancies to supplement existing information staff as and when appropriate

- Encourage submissions of scientific papers to peer reviewed publications
- Ensure that developed technology is tested and verified before dissemination

Strategy 2: Capacity development of information staff at all levels

Required actions:

- Assess and improve present capability of staff both technical and information staff in information development
- Subscribe to relevant information resources and services, particularly on-line and make it available for staff
- Involve information staff into technical work (and vice versa)
- Conduct information staff exchange program among Secretariat and Departments as well as among other organizations

Strategy 3: Enhance the accessibility of SEAFDEC information to target groups

Required actions:

- Identify target groups, use appropriate information dissemination approaches and categorize information material in a clear-cut manner
- Use of information technology
- Integrated website linked with individual Departmental websites maintained by their respective Departments
- e-library
- Digitized publications
- Database for exhibition tools/materials (i.e. pictures)
- Convert policy and technical information into layman language
- Translate selected information materials in appropriate languages
- Make efforts to develop SEAFDEC relevant information to reach the poor
- Establish inter-departmental coordination body for outreach activities
- Conduct on-site seminar/meetings/trainings
- Inform on and support participation to training activities offered by the Centre

Strategy 4: Strengthen cooperation and networking with other organizations

Required actions:

- Involve other organizations in SEAFDEC activities and keep them updated of related follow-up actions
- Support the participation of appropriate SEAFDEC staff to relevant regional/international activities
- Arrange partnership to facilitate collaborative work (e.g. MOU), while fully considering information activities
- Identify, and if needed, establish means to support SEAFDEC staff to communicate more with other organizations (e.g. mailing lists, online fora)
- Improve mechanisms for information exchange between SEAFDEC and the member countries (e.g. online workgroup)

Strategy 5: Enhance internal communication and information sharing

Required actions:

- Develop mechanism to document inter-departmental information by linking existing sources
- Promote close communication among information staff of Secretariat and Departments (e.g. setting up a web-based forum)
- Explore possibility and set up a unified e-mail system
- Create an integrated staff directory (name, position, e-mail, field of work, office telephone)
- Support the sharing of resources and facilities among Secretariat and Departments and facilitate mutual assistance
- Establish an inter-departmental committee with key staff from Secretariat and Departments to coordinate when issuing publications

Strategy 6: Raising SEAFDEC image at international and regional levels

Required actions:

- Participate to relevant international, regional or national exhibitions
- Promote outcomes from SEAFDEC efforts through public media (i.e. press statements)
- Produce SEAFDEC promotional materials (e.g. souvenirs)
- Evaluate public awareness about SEAFDEC regularly (e.g. surveys)

Strategy 7: Sustainability of financial support for information and communication activities

Required actions:

- Explore ways to reduce the production and dissemination costs of publication
- Look at the potential of cost sharing between publications' recipients and SEAFDEC (e.g. cost-recovery, postage)
- Seek additional funding to support information and communication activities from various sources

Strategy 8: Regular monitoring and evaluation of information activities

Required actions:

- Promote annual ISEP meetings as a platform for monitoring and assessing the implementation of the information strategies, as well as conducting annual planning of information programs

2.3 Promotion and Implementation

This Information Strategies will be used as basis and guidance for future formulation and implementation of future SEAFDEC information activities and should be realized through series of linked immediate and medium-term actions that are developed through collaboration and coordination among the Secretariat, Departments, the Member Countries, and other Regional/International Organizations.

Once the Information Strategies has been endorsed by the forthcoming 38th Council Meeting, it was agreed that each Department would proceed with an action plan for the next couple of years. The Secretariat will keep a close coordination and monitoring with the Departments for this exercise, with clarification of the roles and responsibilities of each, and the ISEP meetings will help in doing so. This will ensure that the actions and short-term and medium-term objectives are in line with the adopted Information Strategies.

For the promotion and implementation of the Information Strategies for Enhancing Visibility and Communication, the proposed implementation of the Strategies composes of recommendations and follow-up actions, and roles and responsibilities of parties concerned are as follows.

Required Actions and Role of the Secretariat

- Submit the Information Strategies to the next Meeting of SEAFDEC Department Chiefs, and the Meeting of SEAFDEC Council for policy support and endorsement.
- Ensure that SEAFDEC information activities be in-line with the “Information Strategies for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication”;
- Establish clear direction, as well as working mechanism for SEAFDEC information activities;
- Coordinate with SEAFDEC Departments, Member Countries and other regional/international organization in implementation of SEAFDEC information activities;
- Regularly monitor the implementation of SEAFDEC information activities, report to high-level authority of SEAFDEC, and facilitate planning for future activities.
- Conduct future ISEP Meeting in an annual basis prior to PCM in order that the progress of SEAFDEC information activities as well as the implementation of the “Information Strategies” be monitored, assessed and reported (in a rotation basis).
- Mobilize existing information tool to promote visibility and activities of the Center
- Try to promote activities through public media and activities in order to ensure wider recognition by public.
- Conduct information promotion activities particularly in host countries
- Use existing expertise of department to support information work of other departments, as well as supporting visibility and communication of the Center.

Required Actions and Role of the Departments

- Implement information activities in-line with the Goals and Strategies identified in the “Information Strategies for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication”
- Provide required inputs to the Secretariat to support implementation of SEAFDEC information activities, and enhance SEAFDEC visibility and communication
- Mobilize existing information tool to promote visibility and activities of the Center
- Try to promote activities through public media and activities in order to ensure wider recognition by public.
- Conduct information promotion activities particularly in host countries
- Use existing expertise of department to support information work of other departments, as well as supporting visibility and communication of the Center.

Role of the Member Countries

- To provide required inputs to SEAFDEC to support implementation of information activities, and enhance SEAFDEC visibility and communication
- To enhance wider dissemination of SEAFDEC information and SEAFDEC visibility, particularly within the Member Countries;
- To monitor and provide feed back on SEAFDEC information activities to ensure the effectiveness, relevancy and usefulness of the information.

Collaboration with Regional/International Organizations

- To exchange information on various aspects, e.g. academic, technical in terms of research and development, policy planning and management, etc.
- To enhance wider dissemination of SEAFDEC information.

Annex 17

**COLLABORATION ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN SEAFDEC
AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

SEAFDEC collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was established with and endorsement of SEAFDEC Council and the agreement between the two institutions signed on 17 May 2005. The collaborative agreement was made in the field of aquatic animal health and aquatic products food safety in Southeast Asian region. Forms of cooperation basically include exchange of information on each other's activities; participation and organizing meetings on the matters of mutual interests and sharing of the outcomes; exchange of documents and information on the subject; as well as other cooperation to be further defined.

National Fisheries University (NFU), Japan

Collaboration between SEAFDEC and the National Fisheries University (NFU), Japan has been agreed in the area of academic and educational cooperation in sustainable development of fisheries in Southeast Asian region, particularly for research in the area of mutual interest. Forms of cooperation include collaboration of faculty, staff members and training vessels for research, symposia and other academic pursuit; exchange of staff and students for education, training and research; and exchange of data/documentation and research materials in the field of mutual interest. As endorsed during the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, the collaboration arrangement was signed in May 2005.

Fisheries Research Agency (FRA)

SEAFDEC and FRA has signed the Arrangement for Scientific and Technical Cooperation since January 2004. Upon the cooperation, in September 2004, SEAFDEC and FRA agreed to accept and sign the Consignment Agreement for the implementation of the Project of Agricultural Research and Development using New Technologies - "Development of diagnosis and preventive measures for Koi Herpes Virus (KHV). As the Consignment Agreement term was ended in March 2005, SEAFDEC and FRA considered that the conducting of the research has given lot of advantages to Scientists. In order to control the disease, the basic pathogenesis of the disease and molecular genetics of KHV is studied, and new diagnosis or detection methods for KHV is developed in this project. Furthermore effective measures for the prevention of the disease will be developed. Therefore, SEAFDEC and FRA agreed to continue the conducting of the research and renewed Consignment Agreement to conduct the research project on Development of diagnosis and preventive measures for Koi Herpes Virus in the year 2005. The renewed Agreement was signed in September 2005.

Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University (FFS-HU)

The promotion on scientific, educational, and technical cooperation for the sustainable development of fisheries is still main objective of SEAFDEC. Thus, SEAFDEC and the

FFS-HU have agreed to endeavor possibly cooperation on research, training and other activities in areas of mutual interest. The representatives of the two institutions, Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences and Secretary-General of SEAFDEC signed the Agreement in February 2006. Main cooperation covers: 1) joint research and, education/training; 2) visit or exchange of researchers and students for study, research, education, and training in order to promote cooperation in areas of common concern that are mutually agreed; 3) participation researchers/students in conferences and meetings on matters of mutual interest.

(Summary)

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SEAFDEC)
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
STRATEGIC PLAN**

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Based on the long-term Strategic Plan adopted in 1998 and the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region were adopted in 2001, a set of programs for the Training Department (TD) of SEAFDEC was formulated and implemented. However, under the situation of changing fisheries and the needs of member countries those program and plans must be updated and strengthened to fulfill the TD's role in developing sustainable marine capture fisheries.

In 2003, the financial situation of SEAFDEC started to show some signs of uncertainty, particularly with concerns over the future regular contributions from the Japanese Government. As a result, the financial situation of SEAFDEC has become more difficult in 2005 and 2006, and the hardship may be worsened with the possible withdrawal of regular contributions for 2007 and onwards.

To address the changing situation, the TD has conducted a reformulation exercise for its Strategic Plan taking into account the 1998 SEAFDEC Strategic Plan. With the new TD's Strategic Plan it is envisaged that the Department would be able to adjust itself to continue to provide with the best services to the member countries in the years ahead.

In response to the need of reformulation exercise a working group consisting of TD and Secretariat staff was established in late 2005. The group serves to facilitate the formulation of new TD's Strategic Plan with the advisory consultation from 3 special advisors from the Thai DOF. The formulation process started with a series of meetings among the working group, TD staff and Secretariat concerned. Furthermore, a Strategic Planning Workshop was held to formulate a new TD's Strategic Plan during 27-29 January, 2006. With 30 participants from working group, advisors, key officers of TD and Secretariat the workshop attendees were divided into two groups to carry out SWOT analysis and to define the Vision, Mission, and Strategies of TD. Based on the results from the workshop the working group developed a TD Strategic Plan which was proposed to the TD Administrative committee.

THE TD STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision

“To be a leader in tropical marine capture fisheries working towards sustainable development that is self-sustained with global collaborative network.”

Missions

1. To promote responsible tropical marine capture fisheries
2. To expand networking and cooperation at regional and international levels
3. To work towards a financially self-sustained organization
4. To upgrade the organization's capability, potentials and efficiency
5. To enhance the organization's profile and recognition among beneficiaries, partner agencies and donors at various levels

Strategies

1. Promote coastal fisheries management through research, capacity building and information development to ensure responsible resource utilization and sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities.
2. Promote off-shore fisheries through development of best fishing practices and energy optimization to ensure stable supply of food fish, and to reduce fishing pressure in coastal areas.
3. Participate proactively in relevant international and regional forums to exchange technical expertise, disseminate fisheries information and raise the organization's profile.
4. Promote partnership and technical cooperation including exchange of expertise, staff and information with international/regional organizations and donor agencies in areas of technical competence as well as maintain close communication and dialogues.
5. Maintain dialogues and communication with existing donor agencies as well as develop mechanisms and organization's capacity to secure new and diverse funding sources.
6. Promote and implement cost-sharing/cost recovery policy, such as economizing operational costs and maximizing the use of modern and high maintenance facilities through joint operations and charter services.
7. Improve organization's administration and operation through adoption of "strategic management" approach, as well as enhance internal and external communication by maximizing the use of ICT for an effective and efficient organization.
8. Review and restructure the organization and its manpower, including enhancement in human resource development at all levels in both technical capacity and attitudes towards a center of excellence to ensure relevance to current needs of target beneficiaries.
9. Raise the organization's image and profile at international and regional levels through improving publicity, technical cooperation and partnership.
10. Improve organization's capacity to produce relevant, timely and useful information materials to meet the requirements of target audiences.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to formulation on the new strategic plan, a meeting between the working group and the TD Administrative committee was held to discuss future actions for supporting implementation of the new TD's Strategy Plan. The meeting concludes and recommends the following actions to be considered and implemented urgently:

1. To reorganize TD structure as well as to adjust manpower and its arrangement.
2. To economize operational costs in the department and to encourage implementation of cost-sharing/cost recovery policy.
3. To raise fund through enhancing non-traditional source of funding and to provide services using existing TD facilities and competent expertise to the public with minimal charges.
4. To expand networking in technical aspects and human resource development through communication with the Information and Communications Technology, and to participate relevant international and regional forums.
5. To continuously collaborate with existing partner agencies in various aspects such as technical research, capacity building, and information exchange.

Annex 19

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
ABRIDGED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<u>2004</u> US\$	<u>2003</u> US\$
INCOME		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	8,496,814	10,771,097
Other sources	196,599	226,904
Other income	336,203	465,362
Total Income	<u>9,029,616</u>	<u>11,463,363</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Operating and Capital Expenditure		
Research	274,964	256,192
Training	451,368	248,744
Information	146,264	187,809
Collaborative		62,377
Special 5-year	658,716	741,254
Administrative	8,696,914	12,198,630
Total Expenditure	<u>10,228,226</u>	<u>13,695,006</u>
 SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	 (1,198,610)	 (2,231,643)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	<u>6,084,565</u> ^{1/}	<u>8,241,477</u>
FUND BALANCE, End of year	<u>4,885,955</u>	<u>6,009,834</u> ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash at Bank	5,062,442	5,760,880
Receivables	213,410	717,869
Advances and Deposits	129,023	82,912
Fuel and supplies inventories	172,343	88,447
Prepayments	12,583	13,771
Other Assets	240,711	272,628
	<u>5,830,512</u>	<u>6,936,507</u>
<u>Less</u> : Payables	(596,946)	(590,206)
Contribution received in advance	(218,004)	(207,732)
Fund held in trust	(129,607)	(128,735)
NET ASSETS	<u>4,885,955</u>	<u>6,009,834</u>

NB ^{1/} The difference of US\$74,731 is a result of change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
THE SECRETARIAT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<u>2004</u> US\$	<u>2003</u> US\$
INCOME		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	306,057	523,211
Other income	4,190	(119,842)
Total Income	310,247	403,369
EXPENDITURE		
Operating and Capital Expenditure		
Training	134,742	71,283
Information	28,535	25,675
Collaborative		62,377
Special 5-year	98,212	105,046
Administrative	206,196	566,868
Total Expenditure	467,685	831,249
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(157,438)	(427,880)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	1,339,678 ^{1/}	1,991,002
FUND ADJUSTMENT	(552,803)	(239,736)
FUND BALANCE, End of year	629,437	1,323,386 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash at Bank	573,714	1,137,133
Receivables	88,157	315,741
Advances/Deposits and Prepayments	28,410	19,053
	690,281	1,471,927
Less : Payables	(60,844)	(148,541)
NET ASSETS	629,437	1,323,386

NB ^{1/} The difference of US\$ 16,292 is a result of change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<u>2004</u> US\$	<u>2003</u> US\$
INCOME		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	4,690,246	6,365,913
Other income	103,401	290,102
Total Income	4,793,647	6,656,015
EXPENDITURE		
Operating and Capital Expenditure		
Research	117,838	116,744
Training	4,059,337	6,198,314
Information	157,255	141,048
Special 5-year	157,541	163,785
Administrative	997,895	868,601
Total Expenditure	5,489,866	7,488,492
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(696,219)	(832,477)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	2,861,090 ^{1/}	3,458,773
FUND ADJUSTMENT	400,000	200,000
FUND BALANCE, End of year	2,564,871	2,826,296 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash at Bank	2,661,300	2,938,573
Receivables	77,533	116,147
Advances/Deposits and Prepayments	191,062	71,641
	2,929,895	3,126,361
<u>Less</u> : Payables	(147,019)	(92,333)
Contribution received in advance	(218,005)	(207,732)
NET ASSETS	2,564,871	2,826,296

NB ^{1/} The difference of US\$34,794 is a result of change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<u>2004</u> US\$	<u>2003</u> US\$
INCOME		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	1,050,597	993,432
Other income	49,196	22,272
Total Income	1,099,793	1,015,704
EXPENDITURE		
Operating and Capital Expenditure		
Research		3,222
Training	46,983	
Information		23,424
Special 5-year	160,000	160,000
Administrative	1,105,633	1,014,122
Total Expenditure	1,312,616	1,200,768
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(212,823)	(185,064)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	819,999 ^{1/}	974,960
FUND ADJUSTMENT		
FUND BALANCE, End of year	607,176	789,896 ^{1/}
 REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash at Bank	611,052	774,315
Receivables	39,794	29,812
Advances/Deposits and Prepayments	650,846	804,127
Less : Payables	(43,670)	(14,231)
NET ASSETS	607,176	789,896

NB ^{1/} The difference of US\$ 30,103 is a result of change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<u>2004</u> US\$	<u>2003</u> US\$
INCOME		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	1,840,378	2,088,863
Other sources	196,599	226,905
Other income	170,116	260,760
Total Income	2,207,093	2,576,528
EXPENDITURE		
Operating and Capital Expenditure		
Research	269,368	304,115
Training	34,959	79,864
Information	106,299	156,407
Special 5-year	82,962	152,423
Administrative	1,585,608	2,484,024
Total Expenditure	2,079,196	3,176,833
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	127,897	(600,305)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	475,495 ^{1/}	1,042,522
FUND ADJUSTMENT	152,803	39,736
FUND BALANCE, End of year	756,195	481,953 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash at Bank	905,339	335,259
Receivables		231,064
Supplies Inventory	42,540	42,425
Advances/Deposits	31,354	49,413
Other assets	246,002	275,350
	1,225,235	933,511
<u>Less : Payables</u>	(339,433)	(322,823)
Fund held in Trust	(129,607)	(128,735)
NET ASSETS	756,195	481,953

NB ^{1/} The difference of US\$ 6,458 is a result of change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<u>2004</u> US\$	<u>2003</u> US\$
INCOME		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	609,535	799,678
Other income	9,300	12,070
Total Income	618,835	811,748
EXPENDITURE		
Operating and Capital Expenditure		
Research		
Training	31,927	
Information		
Collaborative		
Special 5-year	160,000	160,000
Administrative	686,936	837,664
Total Expenditure	878,863	997,664
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(260,028)	(185,916)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	588,304	774,220
FUND ADJUSTMENT		
FUND BALANCE, End of year	328,276	588,304
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash at Bank	311,037	575,601
Receivables	23,218	19,228
Advances/Deposits and Prepayments	334,255	600,581
<u>Less</u> : Payables	(5,979)	(12,277)
NET ASSETS	328,276	588,304

PRESS STATEMENT

1. At the invitation of the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam, the Council Directors of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, participated in the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from 18-21 April 2006. The Council Meeting was also attended by representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), and the Swedish Board of Fisheries (SBF). The Council meets annually to discuss important fisheries issues and programs, and the management of the Center.
2. The Council noted the progress of programs implemented in 2005 and approved the proposals for 2006 and the recommendations made at the 28th Program Committee Meeting for implementation. The Council also endorsed the recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) organized on 17 April 2006.
3. The Council also endorsed the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) including the Term of Reference as well as Scope and Cooperation Mechanism to strengthen collaboration between SEAFDEC and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in fisheries, which would be further submitted to the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) for endorsement.
4. The Council recognized the importance for Member Countries in the region to carefully tackle the international fish trade-related issues and anti-fisheries campaign as discussed in respective regional/international fora, including fisheries subsidies, concerned aquatic species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO and CITES, marine protected areas on the high seas, moratorium on the high seas bottom trawling, quality and safety of fish and fishery products, traceability of fishery products, and eco-labelling in fish and fishery products, as these would greatly influence fisheries activities in the Southeast Asian region.
5. While taking note of SEAFDEC's current limited financial situation, the Council reaffirmed the importance of SEAFDEC as a regional organization to assist the Member Countries in promoting sustainable development of fisheries through regional cooperation. In this connection the Council agreed to continue supporting SEAFDEC including exerting utmost efforts in securing the annual regular contribution to SEAFDEC to enable the organization to continue to perform its function in the future.
6. The 39th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council will be hosted by Cambodia in 2007.