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EDITORIAL

The highlight of SEAFDEC events in 2014 and more particularly during the last quarter of 2014 was the modest and prudent celebration on 28 December 2014 at TD to praise the 47 years of continued effort of SEAFDEC in promoting sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia and to ring in the New Year 2015.

The last quarter of 2014 also saw more memorable events in the history of SEAFDEC. These included the visit to TD of the 2014 Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council and current SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore together with other officers from the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore. The visit took them to the facilities and workshops at TD as well as the facilities of the *Koyo Maru* of the National Fisheries University of Japan at SEAFDEC/TD pier. Another very significant activity was the conduct of the Inter-departmental Workshop for Preparation of Plans of Operation, which came up with a Master Plan for SEAFDEC Strategic Plan of Operation for 2015 to 2020 embodying more defined functions of SEAFDEC aligned with

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SEAFDEC convenes the 37th PCM and 17th FCG/ASSP Meeting

The 37th Program Committee Meeting (PCM) of SEAFDEC was convened on 1-3 December 2014 to review the progress and achievements of implementation of SEAFDEC programs in 2014 and the programs of activities for 2015. Twenty projects under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the

ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism, plus another special project on “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia” were reviewed and approved by the PCM. Seven new regional projects proposed

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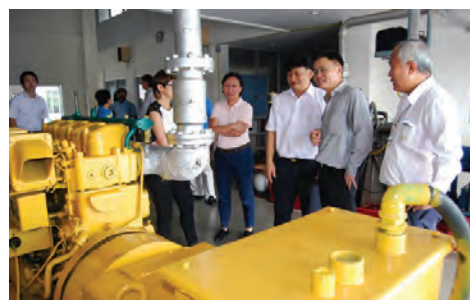


SEAFDEC National Coordinators and participants at the 37th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee

Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council paid TD a visit

Mr. Lee Kwong Weng, Deputy CEO of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore and concurrent Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, together with Mrs. Tan-Low Lai Kim, Alternate Council Director for Singapore and Dr. Tan Lee Kim from AVA paid an official visit to SEAFDEC Training Department on 8 November 2014. At the welcoming reception, SEAFDEC

Secretary-General and Chief of TD, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri led the SEAFDEC staff in greeting the guests. The roles played by SEAFDEC and TD on regional fisheries development and significant achievements were presented by the Secretary-General. Subsequently, a tour was conducted for the visitors to observe TD facilities and the *Koyo Maru* which was docked at TD during the period.



Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council and Alternate Council Director for Singapore browsing SEAFDEC publications display (left), and visiting the engineering workshop (right)

EDITORIAL

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regional priorities and existing program framework. With the operationalization of IFRDMD as the fifth Department of SEAFDEC, the functions of SEAFDEC now cover inland and coastal/marine capture fisheries, aquaculture, post-harvest technologies as well as marine/inland resources conservation and management.

The 37th Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC was convened during the quarter, back-to-back with the 17th FCG/ASSP Meeting where the implementation of SEAFDEC activities under the various program thrusts was reviewed to ensure that the activities address the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. Various regional meetings were conducted during the quarter, including the regional technical consultation on development and use of alternative dietary ingredients or fish meal substitutes in aquaculture feed formulation which identified the key issues and research gaps in this aspect of aquaculture; and the experts meetings on Mekong cooperation on fisheries, aquatic resources and wetlands: 20 years lesson learnt which came up with recommendations and areas where countries, concerned agencies and organizations could collaborate to ensure the sustainability of inland capture fisheries, and its contribution to livelihood, food security and economic development of the Lower Mekong Basin.

Moreover, the SEAFDEC Departments continued to conduct several training courses on subjects related to fisheries, aquaculture and fisheries post-harvest. Furthermore, collaborations have been enhanced with various organizations and agencies including the re-extension of the academic and educational cooperation between SEAFDEC and National Fisheries University of Japan, which has been serving as a platform for collaborative activities on human resources development and sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. ✦

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secretariat@seafdec.org.

SEAFDEC supports bilateral dialogues for fisheries cooperation

SEAFDEC continued to facilitate sub-regional cooperation through dialogues among neighboring countries to discuss issues related to management and utilization of fisheries resources including habitat conservation and improving livelihoods of fishers in transboundary areas. During this quarter, bilateral dialogues were convened for Cambodia-Viet Nam and Cambodia-Lao PDR with support of the SEAFDEC-Sweden project.

For Cambodia-Viet Nam, the cooperation has been facilitated through the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), which was signed by the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and the Directorate of Fisheries of Viet Nam. To follow-up on this MoA, the “Technical Workshop of the Joint Working Team for Fisheries Management between Cambodia and Viet Nam” was convened on 6-7 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop discussed areas of common interest between the two countries, and agreed to collaborate on

sharing of information related to fisheries management, research and development, and relevant laws and regulations of the respective countries. Furthermore, the Workshop also agreed on the TOR of the Joint Committee and Working Group to facilitate the implementation of future collaborative activities.

For Cambodia-Lao PDR, the cooperation focused on sustainable utilization of aquatic resources in the countries’ trans-boundary areas in the Mekong sub-region. As the draft MoA between Cambodia and Lao PDR has recently been discussed and finalized during the 1st Meeting of the Technical Working Group held between the two countries in June 2014, another “Technical Workshop of the Joint Working Team for Fisheries Management between Cambodia and Lao PDR” was convened on 8-9 October 2014 to facilitate further discussion on the scope of work of the Joint Committee and Working Group, as well as the work plan to be implemented in 2015. ✦



Participants during the sub-regional dialogues between Cambodia-Viet Nam (top) and Cambodia-Lao PDR (below)

Re-extension of MOU between SEAFDEC and Office of Vocational Education Commission

The re-extension of Memorandum of Understanding between SEAFDEC and Office of Vocational Education Commission on development of manpower for operation of fishing vessels was signed on 10 November 2014 at the Training Department (TD). This collaboration was established under the MOU that took effect since 2011.



Under this renewed MOU, TD would conduct Training Course on Operations of Fishing Vessels, covering six subjects: 1) construction and stability of fishing vessels; 2) marine communication; 3) laws and regulations of navigation; 4) navigation technology practices; 5) marine machinery technology and practices; and 6) fishing gear technology and practices, for students from Tinsulanonda Fisheries College in Songkhla Province of Thailand.



(Center-right) Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General and (center-left) Dr. Aganit Klungsang, Deputy Secretary-General of Office of Vocational Education Commission during the re-extension of the MOU

SEAFDEC Convenes the 37th PCM and 17th FCG/ASSP Meeting

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for 2015 were also scrutinized. Besides, the PCM also approved eight Departmental Programs which were implemented in 2014 and would be continued in 2015. The Master Plan for SEAFDEC's Strategic Plan of Operation for 2015 to 2020 was also raised for discussion, and the Committee noted that this plan is an internal document to provide basis for future revision of the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments. It should be recalled that the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments would be revised for the consideration of the SEAFDEC Council at its next Meeting in 2015.

Back to back with the 37th PCM was the 17th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP) on

4-5 December 2014 where discussions started with the follow-up actions to the directives given at the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and other meetings of SEAFDEC and ASEAN bodies related to fisheries. The FCG/ASSP Projects as scrutinized and approved by the PCM were subsequently endorsed by the FCG/ASSP Meeting. During the discussion, the Meeting highlighted on the need for collective efforts of the region in addressing issues at international fora so that the region's voice could be heard by the global community. The results and recommendations of the 17th FCG/ASSP Meeting would be submitted to the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) for endorsement to subsequent meetings of the ASEAN on fisheries.



SEAFDEC in collaboration with BFAR holds the 1st Stakeholders Consultation on RPOA-Neritic Tuna in the Philippines

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for the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, as the Consultation would affirm the RPOA prior to submission for endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council.

During the Consultation, Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon, SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator presented the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tuna in the ASEAN Region, including the key six (6) objectives of: 1) determining available data and information, improving data collection and developing key indicators; 2) improving sustainable fisheries management; 3) improving sustainable interaction between fisheries and marine ecosystem; 4) improving compliance to rules and regulations and access to markets; 5) addressing social issues; and 6) enhancing regional cooperation. Participants in the Consultation showed their full support to the program on developing the RPOA-Neritic Tuna and agreed to encourage the national government to combat or eliminate the IUU fishing in the country and eradicate all illegal fishing operations. Regional Director Esmeralda Paz Manalang, BFAR RFO 4-A extended her support and suggested that as part of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign for the RPOA, BFAR will conduct comprehensive nationwide consultation in order to hear and gather comments, ideas and opinions of other stakeholders. This way, BFAR could come up with a strong position to support the proposed RPOA for neritic tuna.



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

SEAFDEC holds inter-departmental workshop for preparation of Plans of Operation

The SEAFDEC Secretariat with support from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Extension organized the Inter-departmental Workshop for Preparation of SEAFDEC Strategic Plans of Operation and Programs of Work from 1 to 3 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. Eighteen Participants from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and all Departments including the newly established Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) joined and provided inputs as basis for developing the SEAFDEC strategic plan towards the next five (5) years. Revision of the SEAFDEC Plans of Operation was recommended by the SEAFDEC Council at its 46th Meeting held early 2014, in order that the priority issues addressed by Member Countries could be appropriately embedded in future SEAFDEC programs, while duplication and overlapping of works among Departments could be minimized.

The Workshop came up with more focused functions of SEAFDEC as a whole, as well as for the respective SEAFDEC Departments, that could be aligned with regional priorities and the existing SEAFDEC program framework. With the newly established IFRDMD, the functions of SEAFDEC could now cover inland/coastal/marine capture fisheries, aquaculture, post-harvest technologies and trade, as well as resources conservation and management. Five-year actions and strategic plans towards achieving the goals of SEAFDEC were also identified,

taking into consideration the available resources and challenges faced by the respective Departments. As further steps after the Workshop, the Secretariat and Departments would have to continue with internal exercises to identify more detailed programs of work in line with the strategic plans. The Strategic Plans of Operation will be presented to the SEAFDEC Program Committee to obtain views before further development of the Departments' Plans of Operation for submission to the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. ✕



Group discussions during the Inter-departmental Workshop

Re-extension of academic and educational cooperation between SEAFDEC and NFU

The Signing Ceremony for the re-extension of the academic and educational cooperation between SEAFDEC and National Fisheries University (NFU) of Japan was organized on 10 November 2014 at the Training Department (TD). Collaboration between SEAFDEC and NFU was established under the “Arrangement for Academic and

Educational Cooperation” since 2005. Such collaboration had served as platform for collaborative activities, particularly the conduct of marine resources survey in the waters of several SEAFDEC Member Countries using the “*Tenyo Maru*” and “*Koyo Maru*” that came up with important fisheries data and information; and provided a very good opportunity for human resources development for SEAFDEC and the Member Countries which is very crucial for sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. It was also noted that right after the re-extension of the MOU, the “*Koyo Maru*” would be cruising to the waters of Cambodia to extend another survey in collaboration with the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia.



During the Mini-Symposium held in conjunction with the signing ceremony



(Left) Dr. Chumnanrn Pongsri, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC and (right) Dr. Akira Hamano from NFU, during the re-extension of the MOU for Academic and Educational Cooperation

In conjunction with the signing ceremony, the “Mini-Symposium on

Fisheries Activities and Collaboration” was convened with the participation of 196 participants from SEAFDEC, NFU and fisheries universities of Thailand, namely: Kasetsart University, and Burapha University (Chanthaburi Campus). Participants discussed various fisheries research activities, and raised suggestions that would facilitate possible collaboration between NFU and the Thai universities in the future. ✕

SEAFDEC holds the Fifteenth Meeting of its Information Staff Program

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Information Staff Program (ISP) of SEAFDEC was organized in Manila, Philippines from 28 to 30 October 2014, and hosted by SEAFDEC/AQD. Attended by SEAFDEC Departments' information officers and staff as well as senior officers, the Meeting welcomed the participation of information staff for the first time, from the newly established SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (SEAFDEC/IFRDMD).



Participants in the 15th Meeting of the Information Staff Program of SEAFDEC

The Meeting reviewed the implementation of the SEAFDEC Information Strategy which is generally aimed at enhancing the visibility of SEAFDEC and strengthening the communication link among the SEAFDEC Departments. This year's ISP Meeting included special agenda, such as the Development of SEAFDEC Programs Database System and Knowledge Management, with the former presented by the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, and the latter by the resource person from the Southeast Asian Regional Center

for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

During the Meeting, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General commended the Departments for their continued efforts in promoting and disseminating the information materials produced by SEAFDEC as such efforts have made SEAFDEC become more visible not only in the Southeast Asian region but throughout the world. From the discussions, lessons and experiences were learned by the new IFRDMD that would facilitate the formulation

of its information plans and programs. Moreover, recommendations were raised to improve the implementation and monitoring of the progress of the SEAFDEC Information Strategy in the future.

At the closing of the 15th Meeting of the ISP, the representative from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD extended its appreciation to AQD for the excellent hosting of this year's Meeting in the Philippines, and offered to host the 16th Meeting of the ISP in 2015 in Malaysia. ❖

TD organizes Fishermen Run 2014



The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized "SEAFDEC Mini-marathon: Fishermen Run 2014" as part of the celebration of the 47th SEAFDEC Anniversary on 28 December 2014 at TD premises in Samut Prakan, Thailand.

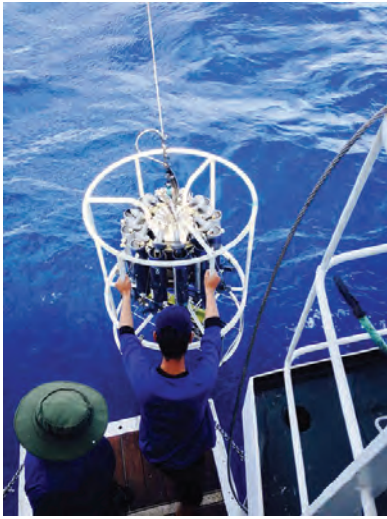
This activity also aimed to enhance and strengthen the health of staff and the public. Part of the proceeds of the activity was donated as scholarship fund to 200 students from four primary schools around TD. ❖

AgriLink Exhibition and the International Seaweed Conference 2014

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officials, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, scientists, academes and stakeholders of the seaweed industry. The theme of the congress is "Breaking Barriers in Environmental, Health, Socio-Economic and Political Challenges". International experts presented papers on various topics such as the development of seaweed farming techniques, and the industry status and demand of the different seaweed species from the seaweed-exporting countries mostly in Asia. The AQD delegation consisted of the Chief Dr. Felix G. Ayson, seaweed scientist and researchers Ms. Maria Rovilla Luhan, Ms. Jonalyn Mateo, Mr. Keneth Tibubos, and AQD Information Specialists Mr. Isidro Tendencia and Mr. Jesus Manolo Almendras. ❖

M.V. SEAFDEC 2 conducts collaborative research in Sulu-Sulawesi Seas



On 17 October 2014, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 departed from SEAFDEC Training Department pier to conduct a survey in Sulu-Sulawesi Seas until 8 December 2014. This activity is a collaborative research under the joint tuna program among three SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas are oceanographically, geologically and topographically diverse. The island of Borneo, the northeastern portion of which (Indonesian East Kalimantan and Malaysian Sabah) forms the southwestern border, lies on the Asian continental shelf and is geologically stable. Most of the remaining islands of northern Indonesia and the Philippines are subject to more tectonic activity and volcanic instability, with both active and dormant volcanoes, several exceeding 3000 meters in height. The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas are oceanographically well defined, by the Palawan through to the north and by a promontory from Sulawesi Island to the south, and the Bohol Sea between the Visayas and northern Mindanao. This Sea is recognized as a Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) with an area of about 900,000 km², comprising 2 large seas (Sulu and Sulawesi) separated by the Sulu Archipelago and several smaller seas. ❖

Training course on of fishing vessel operations

The SEAFDEC Training Department organized a training course on Fishing Vessel Operations from 8 October 2014 to 20 February 2015 for ten (10) students of Tinsulanonda Fisheries College in Songkhla Province, Thailand.



This 20-week training course is organized under the MOU between SEAFDEC/TD and the Vocational Education Commission of Thailand, covering six subjects, namely: 1) construction and stability of fishing vessels; 2) marine communication; 3) laws and regulations of navigation; 4) navigation technology practices; 5) marine

machinery technology and practices; and 6) fishing gear technology and practices. During the training, all students would undergo practical training onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC and the M.V. Plalung, and field visits to various shipping facilities. ❖

Training courses @ AQD: An overview

In the last quarter of 2014, over 120 trainees from different countries attended SEAFDEC/AQD's training courses. The courses were on seed production, hatchery, nursery and management for mud crab, seabass, sandfish, catfish and freshwater commodities, as well as courses on aquatic microbiology, and nutrition & diseases.



AQD scientist Dr. Mae Catacutan teaches the participants how to process feeds during the course on "Feed Preparation, Feeding and Health Management for Tilapia"

AQD had been collaborating with various sectors in training and disseminating information and technologies. The partnership with Winrock International made the course on "Feed Preparation, Feeding and Health Management for Tilapia" possible. The training course highlighted on feed formulation and farm-based feed preparation utilizing locally available feed ingredients as well as feeding

management practices that minimize feed wastage and environmental impacts. With this approach, the production cost from the feed component could be decreased and income could be increased. The course was held at the Northern Mindanao School of Fisheries campus in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, Philippines from 20 to 22 October 2014.



Dr. Emilia Quintio explains the morphology of mud crab to the trainees of "Mud Crab Hatchery and Nursery" in Zamboanga City

Another partnership is with Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences & Technology (ZSCMT) that led to the on-site training course on "Mud Crab Hatchery and Nursery" held in ZSCMT campus on 24 September. The three-day course had lectures and practical sessions on mud crab biology, broodstock management & larval rearing, nursery rearing and natural food production. "This course is a great learning opportunity for me," said one

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Training courses @ AQD: An overview

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of the trainees from the private sector.

There had been quite an interest for mud crab this year which led to a second session of the 23-day course on “Mud Crab Hatchery, Nursery and Grow-out Operations”. With international participants, the course was concluded on 29 October 2014. A trainee shared during the closing ceremony that at first, he was reluctant to train at AQD but after meeting the mud crab and natural food experts (resource persons of the course) of the institution, he realized the he came to the right place. International trainees had been coming back to AQD to acquire more knowledge like farm owner Dr. Mona Azzan Hassan Abdat from Egypt who attended her third training in AQD together with her assistant farm manager Mr. Mohamed aad Mohamed Abu Taleb. They finished the special training course on “Seabass Hatchery Operation and Management” from 16 to 31 October 2014. The course objective is to teach the participants the basic technical skills and knowledge in the operation and management of a seabass hatchery.

Other training courses held in AQD are: 1) Sandfish Seed Production, Nursery and Management; 2) Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations; 3) Aquatic Microbiology; and 4) Community-based Freshwater Aquaculture for Rural Areas of Southeast Asia. ❏



A practical session on the identification and anatomy of mud crab with AQD scientist Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa during the “Mud Crab” training course

AgriLink Exhibition and the International Seaweed Conference 2014

The SEAFDEC/AQD booth at the AgriLink 2014 Exhibition in Metro Manila, Philippines highlighted two current studies, these are *Kappaphycus* micropropagule production and the recently developed SEAFDEC Premium Diet for milkfish. The AgriLink-FoodLink-AquaLink is the Philippine's largest annual international agribusiness exhibition attracting hundreds of exhibitors and the highest number of visitors, held every October each year. Through the AgriLink exhibition, AQD has continuously updated the industry on new aquaculture commodities and science-based technologies through sales of books, manuals, brochures and active interaction with aquaculturists through consultations and seminars. Approximately 1,335 guests visited the AQD booth while 228 of these actively engaged with AQD scientists through consultations and inquiries. The consultation process also served as a feedback for AQD researchers on current problems faced by the aquaculture sector and possible research gaps that need to be addressed. On the last day of the exhibition, AQD gave two seminars, where Ms. Maria Rovilla Luhan talked on “The Latest Advances in the Culture of the Seaweed, *Kappaphycus*”, and Dr.



Aquaculturists consulting AQD scientist Dr. Mae Catacutan, and entrepreneurs buying SEAFDEC/AQD books and extension manuals.

Relicardo M. Coloso shared the results of his study on “SEAFDEC Premium Diet for milkfish.”

One of the Information Strategies for enhancing SEAFDEC visibility at international, regional and national levels is to participate in international conferences and meetings. On 19-21 November 2014 SEAFDEC/AQD participated in the International Seaweed Conference hosted by the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines in Cebu City in central Philippines. The Conference attracted over 700 participants from Asia, Oceania, Europe and the Americas that included farmers, processors, exporters, government

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Plenary hall during the International Seaweed Conference in Cebu City in central Philippines.

SPECIAL REPORT

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

By Abdul Razak Latun, Mazalina Ali, Masaya Katoh, Somboon Siriraksophon and Bundit Chokesanguan

IUU fishing has been identified as biggest threat to the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region (29th Session of APFIC). To combat IUU fishing, countries had been asked to take actions among others to adopt sub-regional cooperation in deterring IUU fishing in the region. In response, the ASEAN has been seriously addressing the issue on management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing together with ASEAN, SEAFDEC and the RPOA initiative to combat IUU fishing, adhering to the "Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020" adopted by the Ministers and Senior Officials during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011.

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries have recognized the need to foster cooperation among the countries as well as with international and regional organizations in order to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region, as clearly stipulated in the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020. In an effort to respond to such mandate, SEAFDEC has been implementing various activities that aim to control IUU fishing in the region, one of which is the activity on Preventing the Export of IUU Fishing Products from the Southeast Asian Region. With financial support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), this activity being carried out by MFRDMD aimed at collecting and sharing information on the export of fishery products from the region, and developing the regional guidelines that would set one's sight on preventing IUU fishing and its products from being imported/exported. The said guidelines would take into consideration the relevant international trade-related measures that prohibit the marketing of fish and fishery products derived through unsustainable means and from unsustainable sources.

The efforts of SEAFDEC to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region is being spearheaded by the Government of Japan through the JTF Project on "Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fish Trade-related Issues", as well as by the Government of Sweden through the SEAFDEC-Sweden project which aims to promote the management of fishing capacity and to combat IUU fishing in the region. While also working closely with the Indonesian-based Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing

including Combating IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU). SEAFDEC also encourages and assists the Southeast Asian countries in the development of their respective National Plans of Action on Combating IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU).



Core Expert Meeting in Thailand in 2011

International organizations such as the FAO which reviewed the requirements of developing countries in combating IUU fishing recognized that lack of effective fishery management and regulation in developing countries have made it difficult for these countries to implement measures to curb IUU fishing. In addition, these organizations also recognized that IUU fishing should be clearly defined and concretely identifiable.

As a matter of fact the shapeless and structure-less term "IUU Fishing" should be made very precise and clearly elaborated on so that an international consensus to adopt the FAO International Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing could be obtained. If left with unclear definition, IUU fishing which could not be controlled as problems could arise in the implementation of countermeasures in many countries, leading to discontentment and unwillingness to take on steps to combat IUU fishing. This means that there should be some forms of clear agreement concerning the range of fishing activities that are being targeted and classified as IUU fishing. Furthermore, the absence of concrete and clear definition of "IUU fishing" could also insinuate that this form of fishing is not in accordance with international consensus on the practices targeted by trade-related measures. In order that these issues and concerns would be addressed, the need for

clear definition of IUU fishing which would have the greatest possible precision, should be considered a priority by relevant agencies and organizations including the concerned RFMOs.

Development of the Regional Guidelines (2011-2014)

In 2011, SEAFDEC more particularly TD and MFRDMD initiated a project on the promotion of fishing license, boats registration and port State measures to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. The project carried out under JTF support had three main activities: 1) promotion of fishing license, boats registration and port State measures; 2) promotion of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in Southeast Asia; and 3) preventing the export of products from IUU fishing products. While the first two activities are being implemented by TD, the last activity is under the responsibility of MFRDMD. The activities conducted by MFRDMD include gathering of information regarding export of fisheries products in AMS and organizing a Core Expert Meeting for information gathering regarding export of fisheries products and recommendation on information required for development of a regional guidelines. The output from the meeting included the structure and format of the regional guidelines to prevent the export of products from IUU fishing activities.




(Top) Information gathering during the visit to Indonesia in 2012; and (Below) Information gathering during the visit to Viet Nam in 2012

In 2012, MFRDMD developed a set of questionnaires to collect information regarding issues, processes and procedures on the export of fish and fishery products of SEAFDEC Member Countries. Information gathering through visits to some ASEAN Member States were undertaken. Series of core experts meetings were held from 2012 to 2013. In 2014, final draft of guidelines was prepared by MFRDMD and the Secretariat, and the regional guidelines known as the “ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain” (**Box 1**) was finalized at the RTC on

<p align="center">Box 1 Outline of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain</p>
<p>Abbreviations And Acronyms</p>
<p>Preface</p>
<p>PART I: Introduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goals and Objectives 2. Nature and Scope 3. Guiding Principle 4. Definition of Terminologies
<p>PART II: Forms of IUU Fishing Activities Occurring in the Southeast Asian Region</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Common Issues 6. Various Forms of IUU Fishing Activities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Illegal fishing activities within country ii) Unauthorized transshipment and landing of fish/catch across borders iii) Poaching in the EEZs of other countries iv) Illegal fishing and trading practices of live reef food fish, reef-based ornamentals and endangered aquatic species v) IUU fishing in the high seas and RFMO areas
<p>PART III: National, Bilateral/Multi-lateral, Regional Initiatives to Combat IUU Fishing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. National Initiatives 8. Bilateral/Multi-lateral Enforcement Activities 9. Regional and RFMOs Initiatives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) ASEAN-WEN ii) CTI-CFF iii) MRC iv) RPOA-IUU v) SSME vi) RFMOs Initiatives
<p>PART IV: Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Activities into the Supply Chain</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Managing Fishing Activities within a Country 11. Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch Across Borders 12. Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of Other Countries 13. Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals, and Endangered Aquatic Species 14. Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMOs Areas
<p>Review of the Guidelines</p> <p>Annexes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting under the JTF IUU Project 2011-2014 for the Development of this Guidelines 2. Example of Vessel Identification and Licensing System of Malaysia 3. Basic Requirements for the Database of RFVR 24 m. in Length and Over

Regional Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

The Regional Guidelines need to be endorsed by the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and subsequently by the ASWGFi and the SOM-AMAF before these could be implemented. 

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

SEAFDEC and BFAR holds the 1st Stakeholders Consultation on RPOA-Neritic Tuna in the Philippines

The First Stakeholders Consultation on the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tuna in the ASEAN Region was successfully convened in Cebu City, Philippines on 21 October 2014. The Consultation was hosted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Regional Field Office VII (BFAR-RFO 7) in collaboration with and funded by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project in order to provide awareness to stakeholders on the draft RPOA for Neritic Tuna. The Consultation was attended by 44 participants from the neritic tuna industry (boat owners), fishing associations, academe, National Stock Assessment Program-Bureau of Fisheries Aquatic Resources (NSAP-BFAR) and National Fisheries Research Development Institute (NFRDI).



Participants in the 1st Stakeholders Consultation on the RPOA on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tuna in the Philippines

The Stakeholder Consultation aimed to solicit and compile feedbacks, issues, concerns and recommendations among the concerned stakeholders regarding the final draft of the RPOA and as part of the awareness-building on the impact of global issues related to sustainable fisheries management and conservation measures specifically for neritic tuna in the ASEAN region. In addition, the Consultation was intended to be part of the preparations

(Continued on Page 3)

SEAFDEC participates in ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce Meeting

SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Hajime Kawamura represented SEAFDEC during the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, hosted by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia in Penang on 19-20 November 2014. The Meeting was aimed at providing the Taskforce focal point members with updates on the implementation of activities, evaluating and discussing the operations of the Taskforce, and discussing the steps to be undertaken by the Taskforce in 2015.

During the Meeting, progress of the activities implemented under the Taskforce in 2014, *i.e.* on Aquatic Animal Health Management in the ASEAN Region; Zonal Aquaculture Sector Planning to Address Aquatic Animal Health; Management and Disease Prevention in ASEAN; Development of a Regional Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) Protocol for the ASEAN Region; and Improving Feed

Management Practices in Aquaculture, were brought up; while the priority areas to be addressed for 2015 and beyond were subsequently explored. The Meeting also discussed important operational matters, *e.g.* the establishment of the Taskforce Secretariat, of which the hosting was offered by the Government of Indonesia.

The ASEAN Seafood Website was also proposed as communication tool not only to present updates on the Taskforce and its activities but also for Taskforce communications in the future; and the 4th Meeting of the Taskforce was tentatively scheduled in early 2015 in Indonesia.



(Fifth on the first row from the right) The SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Hajime Kawamura, during the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

AMS finalize the second draft ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme on Marine Capture Fisheries

The assistance of SEAFDEC was sought by the ASEAN Member States (AMS) for the development of a common catch documentation scheme for the region, taking into consideration the standards and information requirements of existing schemes of importing countries and regional fishery bodies. With support from the Japanese Trust Fund, a series of consultations had been facilitated by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with MFRDMD to develop the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS). In mid October 2014, the draft ACDS was developed by a small group of experts from the ASEAN Member States and Singapore as the ASEAN Lead Country. Subsequently, the Regional Technical Consultation on ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme was convened in Langkawi, Malaysia from 16 to 18 December 2014 and co-hosted by MFRDMD and the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The Consultation was attended by representatives from all AMS except Myanmar as well as the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and concerned Departments.

During the Consultation, the AMS provided information on their capture fishery catch documentation systems as well as identified the issues, and provided recommendations in relation to the development and implementation of the ACDS. The Meeting however cited some concerns related to the development of the



Participants in the Consultation to finalize the 2nd Draft ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme on Marine Capture Fisheries

ACDS, *e.g.* the template for fishing vessels should be developed in two categories, namely large and small fishing vessels; templates should be developed for market requirements, *i.e.* exportation, importation, and re-exportation; verification and validation procedures should be established; responsible units to monitor compliance should be identified; pilot projects (target species, budget and period) should be carried out; compliance strategy and legal basis should be defined. The Meeting also raised the concern on transshipment at sea as well as double flagging which required close collaboration among neighboring countries. Nevertheless, the Consultation also suggested that the ACDS could be an entry point to address these issues. The initiative of SEAFDEC to develop the Regional Fishing Vessel Record for vessels 24 meter in length and over was recognized to also support the cumulative efforts to combat IUU fishing in the region.

Taking into consideration the issues, concerns and recommendations made by the AMS, the second draft ACDS was discussed and revised during the Consultation. At the onset, the Meeting agreed to revise the title of the ACDS to “ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme: Marine Capture Fisheries”. The Meeting also agreed to provide additional information on small fishing vessels and fishing areas of each AMS to the Secretariat, considering that the progress of the development of ACDS would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council and the ASWGFi during their respective forthcoming meetings in 2015. The Meeting also suggested that stakeholder consultations, trial activities such as pilot sites, target species, and role playing should be conducted as soon as possible. Moreover, the Meeting also suggested that AMS should consult with importing countries on the possibility of superseding their existing documentations with the ACDS in the future. ❖

SEAFDEC and DOF Myanmar hold aquaculture feed meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

The *efficient use of aquaculture feeds and continued research for developing suitable alternative protein sources to reduce dependence on fish meal and other fish-based products* were adopted by the ASEAN Member States in June 2011 as part of their Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020. To follow-up on this priority issue, the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department and Secretariat, and the Government of Myanmar partnered in convening

a Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on “Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients or Fish Meal Substitutes in Aquaculture Feed Formulation”. Through funds provided by the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) and ASEAN Foundation (ASEAN-Japan Solidarity Fund), SEAFDEC and the Government of Myanmar hosted the meeting that brought together representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries, technical experts

on aquaculture feed and officers from the ASEAN Foundation, SEAFDEC and FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP) to Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 9-11 December 2014. Over 50 participants, including representatives from the private sector (feed companies) attended.

The participants reviewed the status of developing alternative dietary

(Continued on Page 13)

SEAFDEC holds the 1st Meeting of Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters

SEAFDEC organized the 1st Meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in Southeast Asian Waters on 18-20 November 2014 in Shah Alam City, Selangor, Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by the scientific working group members from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as the Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD on behalf of Department of Fisheries Malaysia and senior officials of SEAFDEC.

With the main objectives of developing the Strategic Plan for Stock Assessment, improving data collection, and awareness building to support the implementation of the RPOA-Neritic

Tuna, the Meeting formulated the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the SWG on Stock Assessment for the management of neritic tuna in the long term as well as the timeline, and identified the responsibilities of SWG members in relation to the implementation of the planned activities. The Meeting agreed that the documents would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Program Committee

during its Meeting in December 2014 for comments and subsequent submission to the SEAFDEC Council by *ad referendum* for endorsement. ✖



(Top) Ms. Mahyam Mohd Isa serving as chairperson; and (Below) sharing of information during the Meeting

IFRDMD starts off its preliminary survey on freshwater eel

During the last quarter of 2014, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD started its new research on freshwater eels. Based on initial information which revealed that eels are found in the west coast of Sumatra especially in Bengkulu Province including Enggano Island of Indonesia, IFRDMD on 22-24 December 2014 conducted a preliminary survey to collect eel samples and information on the status of eel fisheries in several rivers in Bengkulu Province by field observation and interviewing eel collectors. Secondary data on eel fishery production were also gathered from Provincial Fishery Extension and Fish Quarantine Station, showing that eels

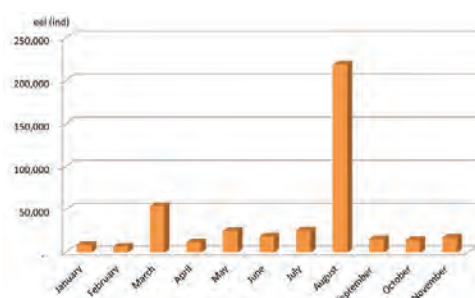


Research location at Bengkulu Province

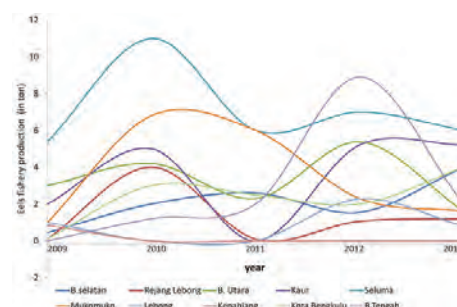


Eels kept in fiberglass tank

are captured mainly in North Bengkulu, Seluma, and Kaur Regencies; while data from Fatmawati Airport further showed that transport of eels from Bengkulu occurred all year round with the highest



Left: Total eel production from Bengkulu Province in 2014, showing the highest peak in August during the change from dry to rainy season, and slight peak in March at the end of rainy season (data from Provincial Fishery Extension); and Right: Eel fishery production (MT) in different regencies of Bengkulu Province



peak in August, accounting for 52.5% of the total eel transport. In practice, fishers usually capture eels from river mouth areas using modified fish trap, locally called *bubu*, and sell them to collectors. Although eels are carnivorous in nature, collectors keep eels of 150-200 grams in fiberglass tank without feeding before transporting them to Palabuhan Ratu or Bogor in West Java. Results of current study showed that Bengkulu Province has a huge potential for eel fishery, but yet to be exposed. The study also revealed the variation of eel production among regencies in Bengkulu Province (as of 2014), with Seluma having the highest production. This could be related to the characteristic of Seluma which has wide river mouth and open contact between sea and river areas. ✖

SEAFDEC and DOF Myanmar hold aquaculture feed meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

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ingredients for aquaculture feeds in the Member Countries. Country representatives gave updates on utilization of fish by-catch, fish meal and plant protein sources in commercial aquafeed production as well as feeding practices to improve feed efficiency. Constraints and recommendations on

the use of fish meal and plant protein sources in aquaculture feed were later discussed. Invited speakers, including the aquaculture feed and nutrition experts from AQD, presented the technological developments on the use of plants and other alternative feed ingredients as protein sources in aquaculture feeds and the existing regional policies and initiatives that limit the use of feed ingredients of marine origin.



Dr. F.G. Ayson, AQD Chief receives a token of appreciation from Mr. U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development of Myanmar



(Top) Participants of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC RTC on Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients or Fish Meal Substitutes in Aquaculture Feed Formulation;



(Middle) Speakers respond to questions of participants during the open forum/discussions;



(Below) Field trip of meeting participants to a local feed company (Htoo Thit Fish Meal Factory) in Yangon, Myanmar

The highlight of the meeting was a workshop session where participants, in working groups, identified the key issues under the thematic areas, the research gaps and recommendations for the three trophic groupings, categorized according to their feeding habits - herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. The session culminated with a plenary presentation on the regional policy recommendations and immediate actions needed for the development and use of alternative dietary ingredients in aquaculture feed formulation. The meeting ended with a renewed commitment of the ASEAN Member States, regional organizations and other partners in the region to enhance collaborative efforts and strengthen partnerships in reducing dependence of aquaculture on feed ingredients of animal origin. ☒

SEAFDEC Secretary-General at the Bali Tuna Conference

At the invitation of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, attended in the Bali Tuna Conference, with the theme “Mainstreaming Sustainable Tuna Management in the Asia-Pacific”. The Conference was held on 19-21 November 2014 in Bali, Indonesia. Comprising two sessions on Sustaining Tuna Fisheries from the Upstream Resources; and Mainstreaming Sustainable Market for Tuna Fisheries, the Conference outlined and connected the upstream and downstream management measures for sustaining tuna business industries.

Also launched by the Government of Indonesia during the end of the Conference was the “Indonesian National Tuna Management Plan” declaring the commitment of Indonesian fisheries stakeholders to manage tuna fisheries in compliance with applicable international standards. ☒

Dr. Gellwyn Yusuf, Director General of Capture Fisheries of MMAF Indonesia, presenting the challenges and breakthrough in the development of Tuna Fisheries Management Plan



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
2015			
20-22 January	Trat Province, Thailand	Sub-regional Technical Meeting for Collaborative Fisheries Management Between Cambodia and Thailand	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
20-22 January	Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam	3 rd OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: "Riding the wave to the future"	OIE
22-23 January	Bangkok, Thailand	Technology Innovative Forum-Creating a More Sustainable and Responsible Seafood Industry in Asia	MARKET
26-28 January	Rome, Italy	Global Conference on Inland Fisheries	FAO
12-20 February	Thailand	Oceanographic Survey in the Gulf of Thailand (Using M.V. SEAFDEC)	TD
13-17 February	North Luzon, Philippines	Survey on Trends of Eel Fisheries Including Glass Eel Catch	IFRDMD
18-19 February	Iloilo, Philippines	AQD Japanese Trust Fund Project Evaluation Meeting	AQD
24-26 February	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Guideline for Managing Fishing Capacity	Secretariat
23-27 February	Namibia	9 th Session of FAO/Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Steering Committee Meeting	FAO/FIRMS
25-27 February	Namibia	Inter-sessional Fishery Subject Group Meeting of the FAO/Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)	FAO/CWP
3-4 March	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Core Expert Meeting on Sharks and Rays	MFRDMD
9-13 March	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Fish Handling Techniques Applicable to Various Fishing Operations in Southeast Asia	TD
10-12 March	Thailand	Regional Workshop on Port State Measures in Southeast Asia	TD
20 Mar-11 May	Sulu-Sulawesi Seas	Collaborative Research in Sulu-Sulawesi Seas (Using M.V. SEAFDEC 2)	TD
23-27 March	Siem Reap, Cambodia	Tenure & Fishing Rights 2015 (UseRights 2015) A Global Forum on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries	FAO
31 Mar-3 Apr	Chiang Rai, Thailand	47 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC & DOF Thailand
1-3 April	Darwin, Australia	5 th MCS Sub-regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group	RPOA-IUU
8-10 April	Pontianak, Indonesia	6 th Sub-regional Meeting on Southern and eastern Area of the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas	RPOA-IUU
28 April	Bangkok, Thailand	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Annual Review Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
24-27 May	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Regional Consultative Workshop on Improving the Contribution of Culture-based Fisheries and Related Fishery Enhancements in Inland Waters to Blue Growth	FAO/APFIC
May (Tentative)	Thailand	Regional Meeting on RFVR Database as a Practical Countermeasure to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	TD
May (Tentative)	Thailand	11 th Technical Symposium on Mekong Fisheries	MRC
June (Tentative)	Thailand	Regional Workshop on Port State Measures in Southeast Asia	TD
June (Tentative)	(To be defined)	Regional Consultative Workshop on Documentation and Dissemination for Successful Sustainable Aquaculture Intensification Practices in Asia	FAO/APFIC
27-29 August	Bali, Indonesia	4 th CTI-CFF Regional Business Forum "The Coral Triangle as a Global Sustainable Marine Tourism Destination"	CTI-CFF
2-4 September	Thailand	5 th Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Meeting	RPOA-IUU
2-5 November	Brunei Darussalam	8 th RPOA Coordination Committee Meeting	RPOA-IUU
November (Tentative)	Boracay Island, Philippines	RTC on EMS/AHPNS and Other Trans-boundary Diseases for Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management in Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	AQD & BFAR

Renowned experts assembled to share their experiences, successes and failures on the management of fisheries, aquatic resources and wetlands of the Lower Mekong Basin

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Wetland Quality Deterioration, Water Quality, Overcoming Effects of Infrastructure-plans for integrated water resources management; and 6) Climate Variability and Climate Change-the importance of seasonal floods.

At the end of the three-day Meeting, recommendations were put forward and the areas where countries, concerned agencies and organizations could collaborate were identified to ensure the

sustainability of inland capture fisheries, and its contribution to livelihood, food security and economic development of the LMB as well as other inland fisheries habitats of the Southeast Asian region. Specifically, SEAFDEC was requested to: consider accommodating the concept of MRC's Basin-wide Fisheries Management Strategy into the SEAFDEC framework on inland fisheries management and development; sustain its cooperation and dialogues with MRC, FAO and relevant organizations and to provide inputs to relevant upcoming meetings in order to support the sustainable development and management of inland capture fisheries in the LMB and Southeast Asia as a whole, work together as well in the promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) concept in inland fisheries management; and extract the methodologies and tools that have been used for various studies in the LMB.



Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri (sitting on the right) serving as moderator during plenary session on lessons learnt from Mekong Agreements



Participants of the Experts Meeting on Mekong Cooperation on Fisheries, Aquatic Resources and Wetlands

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

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

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Renowned experts assembled to share experiences, successes and failures on management of fisheries, aquatic resources and wetlands of the Lower Mekong Basin

On 12-14 November 2014, the “Experts Meeting on Mekong Cooperation on Fisheries, Aquatic Resources and Wetlands: 20 years lessons learnt” was organized in Phnom Penh, Cambodia as a collaborative effort of SEAFDEC, Mekong River Commission (MRC) and the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia, with financial support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. H.E. Prof. Dr. Nao Thouk, Director-General of the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and SEAFDEC Council Director for Cambodia who officiated



H.E. Prof Dr. Nao Thouk delivering his speech to open the Meeting in Phnom Penh

the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting thanked SEAFDEC for spearheading a project in the Mekong River Basin Sub-region with emphasis on strengthening the cooperation and collaboration with MRC as well as with Member Countries that make use of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) for livelihood and economic benefits. Considering the presence of MRC in the Sub-region for about 20 years, he declared that it is proper time to review what has been done on the sustainability of the LMB's aquatic resources, and make use of the experiences gained in charting new direction for inland fisheries as well as for the sustainability of the resources.

On the part of SEAFDEC, it was an opportune time to organize such forum considering that SEAFDEC has just added another feather in its cap, the establishment in September 2014 of its fifth Department in Palembang, Indonesia, the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management

Department (IFRDMD). The experiences of MRC could therefore be mobilized as basis not only for the development of future programs for the sustainability of the aquatic resources in the Mekong River Basin, but also for the sustainability of inland fisheries and aquatic resources for Southeast Asia as a whole.

The topic of the Meeting was divided into six (6) thematic clusters, namely: 1) Mekong Agreements: Regional (Mekong) and Bi-lateral agreements on the Sustainable Development and Use of Natural Resources in the Mekong River; 2) Assessment of the Productivity and Production from Fisheries and Other Aquatic Resources in the Mekong River Basin; 3) Valuation of Fisheries, Aquatic and Wetlands in the Mekong River Basin; 4) Social/Gender-Strengthening the Rights, Roles and Functions of Communities to Manage, Harvest Fisheries and Other Aquatic Resources; 5) Environmental Focus: Mitigating Lost Inter-connectivity,

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SEAFDEC convenes Small Group Experts Meeting to draft the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme

Considering the need of an “ASEAN Catch Documentation System” to enhance intra-regional trade among ASEAN Member States and strengthen regional cooperation on combating IUU fishing, this matter was supported by the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2013 and endorsed by the 21st ASWGFⁱ in July 2013, and subsequently supported by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 34th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34th AMAF) in August 2013. In order to start off the preparation process, SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with MFRDMD were tasked to develop the 1st draft of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) for further consultation with all AMS. Toward this goal, the “Small Group Experts Meeting for Drafting the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme”

was convened on 14-16 October 2014 in Sepang, Malaysia, with financial support from the Japanese Trust Fund. The Meeting was attended by experts from four countries, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore (as ASEAN Lead Country). Based on the format, standards and information requirement of the existing schemes of importing countries such as EU, relevant Regional Fisheries Management

Organizations (RFMOs), the draft ACDS was simplified in order to enhance its applicability in the region. The Meeting successfully came up with the first draft of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme which is expected to facilitate not only intra-regional trade in fish and fisheries products, but also enhance the cooperation among the AMS for the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community by the year 2015.



Participants in the small group experts meeting to Draft the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme