

ASEAN-SEAFDEC Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Fisheries in the ASEAN Tsunami Affected Areas

We, the representatives of the fisheries sector of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries (the Member Countries), expressed our sincere sympathy to Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand and their people who are the victims and affected by unprecedented and devastated scale of earthquake and tsunami on 26 December 2004,

Recognizing the sovereign rights and policy of each affected Member Country and cultural context of coastal community,

Recognizing the different scales of damages of the tsunami impacts in each affected Member Country and their localities,

Acknowledging the importance and guidance given in the ASEAN Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004¹,

Recognizing the direction for rehabilitation and restoration of fisheries given in the 2005 Rome Declaration on Fisheries and the Tsunami² as well as the initiatives of the Consortium to Restore Shattered Livelihoods in Tsunami Devastated Nations³ (CONSRN),

Recognizing the major role of SEAFDEC in fisheries development in Southeast Asia and its potential contributions in rehabilitation and restoration of fisheries as well as coastal communities in the Tsunami affected countries in ASEAN region.

Taking into consideration the resource capacity of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries on the scale, timeframe and competency needed for supports to the rehabilitation and restoration of fisheries for the tsunami affected areas,

Hereby agreed the following Plan of Action to assist fishers, fish farmers and their communities on the rehabilitation of their livelihoods and restoration of fisheries:

1. To formulate a regional cooperative framework including strategy and guiding principles to support the affected Member Countries and areas as well as their communities and people.
2. To identify areas of required technical supports based on the assessments made by the respective tsunami affected Member Countries.
3. To identify and mobilize donor supports for the required regional assistance.
4. To develop the required regional program identifying the appropriate scope of work and work plan in consultation with ASEAN and the affected Member Countries.
5. To coordinate the activities with programs developed by other organizations in the same areas on the required regional program.
6. To mobilize technical resources from SEAFDEC Departments and among the Member Countries.

¹ Adopted by the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 January 2005

² Adopted by the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries held in Rome, Italy on 12 March 2005

³ Comprises of the Bay of Bengal Programme – Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/RAP), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and the WorldFish Center (WorldFish).

7. To develop a regional information base to monitor the rehabilitation and restoring progress in the affected areas.
8. To continue to collaborate with the activities/program of the Consortium to Restore Shattered Livelihoods in Tsunami Devastated Nations (CONSRN).
9. To periodically evaluate the progress and impact of the regional programs and report the outcomes to ASEAN and the Member Countries and incorporate the regional programs into the national sustainable fisheries development.

We, further agreed that SEAFDEC implements the above Plan of Action in close consultation with the Member Countries.