

Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region

We, the Ministers of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries who are responsible for fisheries, met in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: "Fish for the People", on 24 November, 2001,

Recalling the principles of the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the initiatives agreed upon by the ASEAN Member Countries under the Hanoi Plan of Action;

Recognizing the importance of sustainable fisheries for food security and the livelihoods and well-being of the ASEAN people;

Noting the provisions of international declarations and instruments on food security, fisheries, ocean governance, trade, and the aquatic environment;

Conscious of the growing demand for fish and fishery products and the need to secure sustainable fish supply for food security for each ASEAN Member Country;

Aware of the increasing pressures on ASEAN's aquatic environment and fisheries resources from fisheries and non-fisheries activities, that may negatively impact on the livelihoods of the ASEAN people, in particular the poor and disadvantaged segments of society;

Considering the benefits of current and future fisheries cooperation among ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to promote sustainable fisheries in ASEAN Member Countries; and,

Deciding that the issues identified through the national and regional participatory processes in preparation for the above Conference and those identified at the Conference should be given priority;

DO HEREBY RESOLVE, without prejudice to the sovereign rights, obligations, and responsibilities of our countries under relevant international laws and arrangements, to:

1. Formulate regional guidelines to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, taking into account the specific social, economic, cultural, ecological and institutional contexts and diversity of ASEAN fisheries;
2. Cooperate to identify constraints and enhance collaboration among government agencies, which have responsibility for fisheries and fisheries-related issues, in order to harmonize policies, plans and activities which support sustainable fisheries at the national and regional levels;
3. Acknowledge the need for enhanced human resource capabilities at all levels and encourage greater involvement by stakeholders to facilitate consensus and compliance in achieving sustainable fisheries;
4. Mobilize regional technical cooperation to reduce disparities and promote solidarity among ASEAN Member Countries;
5. Encourage effective management of fisheries through delegation of selected management functions to the local level;
6. Recognize the need to progressively replace "open access" to fisheries resources with "limited access regimes" through the introduction of rights-based fisheries which may also facilitate the management of fishing capacity and promote the use of responsible fishing gears and practices;
7. Strengthen national fishery statistical systems and maximize their use for fisheries planning and management and develop standard definitions and classifications to facilitate regional fishery statistics and information exchanges;

8. Emphasize the importance of inland fisheries and aquaculture in planning and policy formulation to improve food security and the livelihoods of rural people;
9. Work towards the conservation and rehabilitation of aquatic habitats essential to enhancing fisheries resources;
10. Mitigate the potential impacts on the environment and biodiversity, including the spreading of aquatic animal diseases, caused by the uncontrolled introduction and transfer of non-indigenous and exotic aquatic species;
11. Promote the maximum utilization of catch, including the reduction of discards and post-harvest losses to increase fish supply and improve economic returns;
12. Increase aquaculture production in a sustainable and environment-friendly manner by ensuring a stable supply of quality seeds and feeds, effectively controlling disease, promoting good farm management and transferring appropriate technology;
13. Promote aquaculture for rural development, which is compatible with the rational use of land and water resources, to increase fish supply and improve the livelihoods of rural people;
14. Improve post-harvest technologies to ensure fish quality assurance and safety management systems, which are appropriate for small and medium-sized enterprises in the region, taking into account the importance of traditional fish products and food security requirements;
15. Strengthen the joint ASEAN approaches and positions on international trade in fish and fishery products indigenous to the region by harmonizing standards, criteria and guidelines; and
16. Increase the participation and involvement of ASEAN Member Countries in international fora to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests;

AND DO HEREBY DECIDE,

That the Resolution be implemented as soon as possible and use the ***Plan of Action*** adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Senior Officials as a result of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: "Fish for the People", held November 19-24, 2001, in Bangkok, Thailand, as a guideline for formulating and implementing programs, projects, and activities through appropriate ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanisms.