

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.