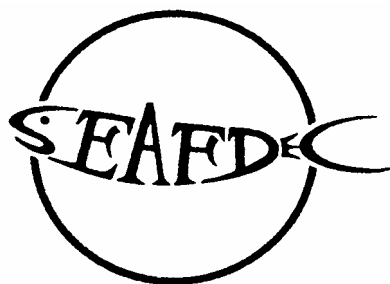


**REPORT OF
THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC
FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG)**

**Brunei Darussalam
17 April 2006**



**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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SEAFDEC Secretariat
Suraswadi Building
Kasetsart University Campus
P.O. Box 1046 Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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-labelling 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.

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

**Brunei Darussalam
17 April 2006**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) was held on 17 April 2006 in Brunei Darussalam with the objectives to discuss the ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries collaborative programs as well as policy considerations on important issues. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries (except Lao PDR), ASEAN Secretariat, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) as well as SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj and the Advisor of the Department of Fisheries, Myanmar, Mr. Hla Win, in the capacity of Mr. Than Tun, the current Chairman of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi).
3. The Agenda, which appears as **Annex 2** was adopted.

II. ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

4. The Meeting endorsed the progress and achievement of the programs of activity undertaken by SEAFDEC under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism in 2005; and the proposed future programs of activity for the year 2006. Summary and lists of programs of activity under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism for the year 2005-2006 appear as **Annex 3**.
5. 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 since the year 2002 and ended in 2005. The Meeting also took note of the new phase of the Special 5-year Program to be implemented from 2006-2010, comprising following components/projects:

Fisheries Management Component

1. Strengthening Small-scale Fisheries Management through the Promotion of Rights-based and Co-management Concepts;
2. Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region;
3. Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature)
4. Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement;

5. Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses;
6. The Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region;
7. Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries;

Aquaculture Component

1. Development of Technologies for Sustainable Aquaculture;
2. Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture;

Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products Component

1. Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries;
2. Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries; and
3. Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries.

6. The Meeting took note of the offer expressed by Thailand in sharing expertise, experience and facilities in the development and promotion of freshwater aquaculture in the region, particularly through the recently established Center of Excellence for Freshwater Aquaculture. In this connection, AQD would further coordinate with Thailand in future undertaking on the issue, particularly in the promotion of aquaculture of indigenous freshwater species.

7. The representative of Thailand also requested the following areas of interest to be accommodated into the relevant programs of activity in the year 2006:

- Research and training on responsible fishing gear technology and fish behavior;
- Additional pilot project for promotion of small-scale fisheries management through rights-based fisheries and co-management in a transboundary area of two countries e.g. Trad Province, Thailand and Cambodia; and
- Fisheries assessment for fish restocking program.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

3.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership

8. The Meeting considered and supported the proposal on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) which appears as **Annex 4**. The proposal acknowledges the past cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC in the implementation of various fisheries projects and activities as well as takes into consideration the recommendation made at the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, the 27th Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, and the SEAFDEC Special Council Meeting in 2005. The Meeting also suggested that the Terms of Reference, Scope and Cooperation Mechanism of the ASSP proposal be further submitted to the higher authorities of ASEAN and SEAFDEC for consideration and endorsement.

9. The Meeting considered 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.

3.2 International Fish Trade Related Issues and Anti-Fisheries Campaigns

• Overview of Issues

10. The Meeting was informed of the international fish trade-related issues and anti-fisheries campaign, particularly those raised at the Regional Technical Consultation on International Fish Trade Related Issues held from 20 to 22 February 2006. The Executive report of International Fish Trade Related Issues and Anti-Fisheries Campaigns appears as **Annex 5**.

11. The Meeting supported the current direction of SEAFDEC on the issues. Further suggestions were made that SEAFDEC Member Countries should carefully investigate the MOU between CITES and FAO; and that the agencies responsible for Fisheries of Member Countries should consult with trade-related agencies on the respective issues to accommodate fisheries concerns into national trade policy.

12. The representative from Japan acknowledged with appreciation the initiative of SEAFDEC in monitoring the issues, keeping Member Countries informed, and supporting the development of common positions among the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Countries on important international issues. He emphasized that such initiative could provide strong justification for Japan's future support to SEAFDEC and strengthen partnership between Japan and ASEAN Member Countries. He then requested SEAFDEC to continue the initiative related to the international fish trade-related issues and anti-fisheries campaigns.

13. The Meeting was informed by Thailand that the legal text on fishery subsidies is under preparation process of WTO and will be finalized by the end of 2006, and 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, Thailand requested the Member Countries to develop common characteristics of small-scale fisheries in the region including criteria for fisheries subsidies that should be permitted.

• Eco-labelling in Fish and Fishery Products

14. The Meeting was informed of the background of the issues on eco-labelling 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" (**Annex 6**). 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.

15. The Meeting also suggested that regional strategy on the issue need to be developed. The strategy should also take into consideration the following:

- 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 labelling scheme and readiness of fisheries sub-sectors or fishery products.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

4.1 Programs Supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

16. The Meeting endorsed the progress and supported future plan for human resources development (HRD) program supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) which appears as **Annex 7**.

17. The tsunami affected countries, namely Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, expressed appreciation to the support from Sida to the tsunami rehabilitation activities; and agreed that sustainable approach should be used in dealing with tsunami rehabilitation, and capacity building activities should be applicable not only for affected countries, but all ASEAN countries.

18. The Meeting expressed requirement for simple early warning system for fishing communities, including basic infrastructure and fishermen awareness on tsunami disaster, in order to avoid possible damage caused by such natural devastation. In this connection, it was responded that Japanese Government, through the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation, has already extended assistance in establishment of the early warning system to the region. In addition, there also exists a more simple and practical warning system technology which has been taken up by fishery communities.

19. The representative from Indonesia suggested that the activity on development of coastal aquaculture to be accommodated in the project to create job opportunity for fishing community in the affected areas in Indonesia.

4.2 Programs Supported by the ASEAN Foundation

20. The Meeting took note of the progress and supported future plan of the projects supported by the ASEAN Foundation through the ASEAN-Japan Solidarity Fund. The projects include 1) Project on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Sustainable Development of Fisheries in Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Region (March 2005 - February 2007), 2) Project on Human Resource Development (HRD) on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region (April 2006 - March 2008); and 3) the Project on Gender and Development on the Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)” System to Alleviate Rural Poverty for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region. The status and progress of programs supported by the ASEAN Foundation for the year 2006 appears as **Annex 8**.

21. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the support provided by the ASEAN Foundation. 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.

4.3 Fisheries Information System

22. The Meeting was informed on the new initiative presented by Myanmar on the establishment of Fisheries Information and Services (FIS) (accessible through www.fis.com), which has been recently introduced to the ASEAN region. The FIS is envisaged to be one of the sources of information on fishery production, trade, product and price, and fishery-related news from all over the world.

V. CONCLUSION

23. After deliberation on collaborative programs and issues under the FCG mechanism, the Meeting agreed to submit the proposals and recommendations concluded at this Meeting for consideration at the forthcoming meetings of SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ASEAN-SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Hajah Hasnah Ibrahim (Ms.)
Director of Fisheries, and SEAFDEC Council
Director for Brunei Darussalam

Fisheries Department
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources
Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910
Brunei Darussalam
Phone: +673 (2) 383 412
Fax: +673 (2) 382 069
E-mail: hasnah_ibrahim@fisheries.gov.bn

Abdul Halidi Mohd Salleh
Acting Deputy Director of Fisheries, and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Brunei
Darussalam

Fisheries Department
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources
Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910
Brunei Darussalam
Phone: +673 (2) 383 067; 382 878
Fax: +673 (2) 382 069
E-mail: halidi_salleh@fisheries.gov.bn

CAMBODIA

Sam Nuov
Deputy Director-General of Fisheries Department,
and SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Fisheries Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
P.O. Box 582
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Phone/Fax: +855 (23) 215470
E-mail: Nouv@online.com.kh

Ing Try
Deputy Director-General of Fisheries Department,
and SEAFDEC National Coordinator for
Cambodia

Fisheries Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
P.O. Box 582
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Phone/Fax: +855 (23) 219256
E-mail: tmmp.cam@online.com.kh

INDONESIA

Made L. Nurdjana
Director-General of Aquaculture , and SEAFDEC
Council Director for Indonesia

Directorate General of Aquaculture
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Gedung B, Lt. IV, Jl. Harsono RM. No. 3,
Ragunan, Jakarta 12550, Indonesia
Phone: +62 (21) 789 0552
Fax: +62 (21) 7883 5853
E-mail: dgaq@indosat.net.id

Anto Sunaryanto
Director for Aquaculture Business
Development & Services, and SEAFDEC
National Coordinator for Indonesia

Directorate General of Aquaculture
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Gedung 8, Lt. V, Jl. Harsono RM. No. 3,
Ragunan, Jakarta 12550, Indonesia
Phone/Fax: +62 (21) 7883 6255
E-mail: asunaryanto@yahoo.com

JAPAN

Shingo Ota
Assistant Director, Overseas Fisheries
Cooperation Office, and SEAFDEC National
Coordinator for Japan

International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency
2-1, 1-chome, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907, Japan
Phone: +81 (3) 3503 8971
Fax: +81(3) 3502 0571
E-mail: shingo_oota@nm.maff.go.jp

MALAYSIA

Dato' Junaidi Bin Che Ayub
Director-General of Fisheries, and SEAFDEC
Council Director for Malaysia

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
6th Floor, Tower Block, 4G2
Wisma Tani, Persint 4
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Phone: +60 (3) 8889 5855
Fax: +60 (3) 8889 2460
E-mail: kpp01@dof.gov.my

Tan Geik Hong (Ms.)
Head of International Relation Section

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
2nd Floor, Tower Block, 4G2
Wisma Tani, Persint 4
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Phone: +60 (3) 8870 4210
Fax: +60 (3) 8889 1195
E-mail: giekhong@dof.gov.my

MYANMAR

Hla Win
Senior Advisor of Department of Fisheries, and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director for
Myanmar

Department of Fisheries
Sinmin Road, Ahlone Township
Yangon, Myanmar
Phone: +95 (1) 225260; 220612
Fax: +95 (1) 228258
E-mail: dof@mptmail.net.mm ;
hlawindof@myanmar.com.mm

PHILIPPINES

Jonathan O. Dickson
Chief of Capture Fisheries Division, and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Philippines

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Arcadia Building, 860 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Philippines
Phone: +63-2-3725051
Fax: +63-2-3725056; 371 1173
E-mail: jod_bfar@yahoo.com

SINGAPORE

Renee Chou (Ms.)
Deputy Director (Agri-technology),
Head of Technology Division, Food Supply &
Technology Department, and SEAFDEC
National Coordinator for Singapore

Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore
5 Maxwell Road, #01-00, Tower Block
MND Complex, Singapore 069110
Phone: +65 6325 7637
Fax: +65 6325 7677
E-mail: renee_chou@ava.gov.sg

THAILAND

Somying Piumsomboon (Ms.)
Deputy Director-General of Department of
Fisheries, and SEAFDEC Alternate Council
Director for Thailand

Department of Fisheries
Kasetsart Klang
Phaholyotin Road, Chatchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 562 0526
E-mail: somyingp@fisheries.go.th

Wimol Jantrarotai
Senior Official on International Fisheries
Affairs, and SEAFDEC National Coordinator
for Thailand

Department of Fisheries
Kasetsart Klang
Phaholyotin Road, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Cell Phone: +66 (09) 9686281
Fax: +66 (2) 561 3132
E-mail: wimolj@fisheries.go.th

Waraporn Prompoj (Ms.)
Chief, International Cooperation Group,
Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division

Department of Fisheries
Kasetsart Klang
Phaholyotin Road, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Phone/Fax: +66 (2) 562 0529
E-mail: prompoj@inet.co.th

VIETNAM

Vu Van Trieu
Acting Director-General of International
Cooperation Department, and SEAFDEC
Alternate Council Director for Vietnam

Ministry of Fisheries
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan Street
Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
Phone: +84 (4) 771 6709
Fax: +84 (4) 771 6702
E-mail: vuvantrieu@mofi.gov.vn

Nguyen Thi Trang Nhung (Ms.)
Expert of International Cooperation Department

Ministry of Fisheries
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan Street
Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
Phone: +84 (4) 831 7693
Fax: +84 (4) 771 6702
E-mail: nguyentrangnhung@mofi.gov.vn

ASEAN SECRETARIAT

Somsak Pipoppinyo
Assistant Director

Bureau of Functional Cooperation
ASEAN Secretariat
70A, Jl. Sisingamangaraja
Jakarta 12110, Indonesia
Phone: +62 (21) 726 2991
Fax: +62 (21) 739 8234
E-mail: somsak@aseansec.org

SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC SECRETARIAT

Siri Ekmaharaj
Secretary-General, and Chief of Training
Department

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: sg@seafdec.org

Hideki Tsubata
Deputy Secretary-General, and Deputy Chief of
Training Department

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: dsg@seafdec.org

Yasuhisa Kato
Special Advisor

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: kato@seafdec.org

Lee Yuen Tong
Advisor (based in Singapore)

c/o Marine Fisheries Research Department
2 Perahu Road, off Lim Chu Kang Road
Singapore 718915
E-mail: mfrdlibr@pacific.net.sg

Magnus Torell
Senior Advisor

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: magnus@seafdec.org

Somnuk Pornpatimakorn
Administration and Finance Coordinator

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: somnuk@seafdec.org

Suriyan Vichitlekarn
Policy and Program Coordinator

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: suriyan@seafdec.org

Pouchamarn Wongsanga (Ms.)
Information Program Coordinator

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: pouch@seafdec.org

Kannika Boonkananurak (Ms.)
Finance Officer

P.O. Box 97 Phrasamutchedi
Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 425 6100
Fax: +66 (2) 425 6110 to 11
E-mail: kannika@seafdec.org

Ikuya Tanaka
Assistant Trust Fund Manager

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: tanaka@seafdec.org

Martin Bjerner
Associate Expert

SEAFDEC/Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 940 6326 to 28
Fax: +66 (2) 940 6336
E-mail: martin@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Bundit Chokesanguan
Information and Extension Division Head

P.O. Box 97 Phrasamutchedi
Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 425 6100
Fax: +66 (2) 425 6110 to 11
E-mail: bundit@seafdec.org

Somboon Siriraksophon
Head, Research Division

P.O. Box 97 Phrasamutchedi
Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 425 6100
Fax: +66 (2) 425 6110 to 11
E-mail: somboon@seafdec.org

Yuttana Theparoonrat
Head, Administrative Division

P.O. Box 97 Phrasamutchedi
Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
Phone: +66 (2) 425 6100
Fax: +66 (2) 425 6110 to 11
E-mail: yuttana@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Tan-Low Lai Kim (Ms.)
Chief

2 Perahu Road, off Lim Chu Kang Road
Singapore 718915
Phone: +65 6790 7973
Fax: +65 6861 3196
E-mail: Tan-Low_Lai_Kim@ava.gov.sg

SEAFDEC AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT

Koichi Okuzawa
Deputy Chief

Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo
Philippines
Phone: +63 (33) 511 8878; 336 2965
Fax: +63 (33) 511 8878; 335 1008
E-mail: okuzawa@aqd.seafdec.org.ph

Virgilia T. Sulit (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator for AQD

Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo
Philippines
Phone: +63 (33) 511 9174
Fax: +63 (33) 335 1008
E-mail: vtsulit@aqd.seafdec.org.ph

SEAFDEC MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Raja Mohammad Noordin Raja Omar
Chief

Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Phone: +60 (9) 617 1940; 617 1543
Fax: +60 (9) 617 5136; 617 4042
E-mail: rnoordin@mfrdmd.org.my

Yoshinobu Konishi
Deputy Chief

Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Phone: +60 (9) 617 1940; 617 1543
Fax: +60 (9) 617 5136; 617 4042
E-mail: ykoni@mfrdmd.org.my

OBSERVERS

Joebert D. Toledo
Chief

Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo
Philippines
Phone: +63 (33) 511 9174; 336 2965
Fax: +63 (33) 335 1008
E-mail: jdtoledo@yahoo.com

Gunilla Greig (Ms.)
Assistant Head of Department

Swedish Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 423
401 26 Göteborg
Sweden
Phone: +46 31 743 0300
Fax: +46 31 743 0444
Mobile: +46 70 253 0381
E-mail: gunilla.greig@fiskeriverket.se

Sabri Haji Mohd. Taha Head of Aquaculture Industry and Development Division	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910 Brunei Darussalam
Hj Ajamain Hj Sawal Head of Management and Surveillance Division	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910 Brunei Darussalam Phone: +673 (2) 772 780 Fax: + 673 (2) 382 069 E-mail: ajamain_sawal@fisheries.gov.bn
Raminah Haji Abdul Wahab (Ms.) Head of Marine Fisheries Management and Development Division	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910 Brunei Darussalam
Hajah Laila Haji Hamid (Ms.) Acting Senior Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910 Brunei Darussalam E-mail: laila_hamid@fisheries.gov.bn
Haji Abd. Rajid Haji Metali Senior Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910 Brunei Darussalam Phone: +673 (2) 771 159 Fax: + 673 (2) 382 069 E-mail: rajid_metali@fisheries.gov.bn
Hajah Noorizan Haji Abd. Karim (Ms.) Head of Support and Services	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910 Brunei Darussalam Phone: +673 (2) 382 493 E-mail: noorizan_karim@fisheries.gov.bn
Munah Haji Lampoh (Ms.) Head of Program and Industrial Project Section	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas, BB 3910 Brunei Darussalam Phone: +673 (2) 383 412 Fax: +673 (2) 382 069 E-mail: munah_lampoh@fisheries.gov.bn

Secretariat of the Meeting

Nualanong Tongdee (Ms.)
Rujarek Bamrasarinpai (Ms.)
Saowanee Wanothayarnchai (Ms.)
Apiradee Kulthai (Ms.)
Julasak Markawat
Sonthikarn Soetphannuk

Fisheries Department, Brunei Darussalam

Organising Committee

Dyg Munah Binti Haji Lampoh
Dyg Desimawati Binti Haji Metali

Opening Ceremony

Hjh Noorizan Bte Haji Abd Karim
Haji Sheikh Idrus Bin Haji Sheik Nikman
Awg Haji Ramlee Bin Haji Ahmad
Dyg Latifah Binti Haji Abd Rahman
Awg Haji Muslim Bin Haji Yusof
Dyg Cristalina Binti Jalil Marsal
Dyg Amela Ayu Ashikin Binti Haji Osman
Dk Wardatun Zahrina Binti Pg Haji Abdul Karim

Public Relations

Dk Hjh Rosni Bte Pg Hj Sabtu
Awg Abd Hamid Bin Haji Zainin
Awg Hariel Bin Hj Simpol
Dyg Subariah Bte Haji Ibrahim
Awg Haji Aji Bin Haji Safar

Food and Refreshment

Dyg Siti Norjuriah Bte Haji Tengah
Awg Mohaimin Bin Damit
Haji Asli Bin Haji Raub

Secretariat

Hajah Siti Amin Bte Haji Mahali
Dyg Wanidawati Bte Tamat
Dyg Mahani Bte Haji Lakim
Dyg Hjh Maslailawati Bte Haji Mohidi
Awg Razali Bin Haji Mashor
Dyg Noramalina Binti Haji Taman
Dyg Sabrina Binti Haji Sarbini
Dyg Maziatol Mariyah Binti Haji Tusin

Conference and Logistic

Awg Irwan Bin Haji Mohd Noor
Awg Haji Sirat Bin Haji Besi
Awg Jumaat Bin Haji Tengah
Awg Khairuddin Bin Jamil
Awg Jamali Bin Haji Mohd Mordi

Accommodation and Transportation

Awg Ishak Bin Haji Jerudin
Awg Sambri Bin Haji Ahmad
Awg Mohammad Bin Haji Tuah
Awg Othman Bin Haji Abdullah
Haji Saiful Adli Bin Haji Mohd Daud
Awg Irman Bin POKJAID DP Haji Mashor
Awg Haji Kasim Bin Haji Ahmad
Awg Damit Bin Osman

Annex 2

AGENDA

- Agenda 1** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda 2** Adoption of the Agenda
- Agenda 3** ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Collaborative Programs for the Year 2006
- Agenda 4** Policy Consideration on Important Issues
4.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership
4.2 International Fish Trade Related Issues and Anti-Fisheries Campaigns
 - Overview of Issues
 - Eco-labelling in Fish and Fishery Products
- Agenda 5** Other Matters
5.1 Programs Supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
5.2 Programs Supported by the ASEAN Foundation
- Agenda 6** Closing of the Meeting

Annex 3

**PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES
CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2006**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As part of collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism, program of activities for the year 2005 and 2006 was implemented and developed, respectively based on the recommendations made at the 7th Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC (FCG) in April 2005 and the recommendations made at the 28th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee in December 2005.

**II. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE YEAR 2005**

2. For the year 2005, programs under ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism were developed and implemented primarily based on the frameworks of 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 2005 programs as listed as Appendix 1, 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.

2.1 Programs Related to Fisheries Management

3. 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.

4. 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.

2.2 Programs Related to Aquaculture

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

2.4 Programs Related to Trade and Environmental Related Issues

9. 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).

III. PROPOSED PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2006

10. For the year 2006, programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism are still primarily based on the frameworks of the Resolution and Plan of Action concluded at the 2001 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference. The programs as listed in Appendix 2 can be grouped into 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 Other Related Issues.

3.1 Programs Related to Fisheries Management

11. 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.

12. 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.

3.2 Programs Related to Aquaculture

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

15. 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.

16. 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.

3.4 Programs Related to Trade and Other Related Issues

17. 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.

18. 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.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS BY SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMS UNDER ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM

19. For consideration by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism, key recommendations below were reached at the 28th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee from 7 to 9 December 2005, Bangkok, Thailand.

4.1 Programs Related to Fisheries Management

20. 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.

21. **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.

22. **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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

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

27. 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.

4.3 Programs Related to Trade and Other Related Issues

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

V. SUGGESTION BY THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM

31. The FCG mechanism is requested to consider and comment on the results of program implementation for the year 2005 and proposed programs for the year 2006. This also includes the recommendations made at the 28th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee.

32. The FCG mechanism is also invited to provide suggestions 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.

**LIST OF PROGRAM UNDER THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES
CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2005**

1. Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
2. Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues
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
SDI-2 Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms
SDI-3 Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices
SDI-4 Resource Enhancement
SDI-5 Identification of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
SDI-6 Information Gathering for Capture Inland Fisheries in ASEAN Countries
SDI-7 Harvesting of Under-exploited Resource
Component II: Aquaculture
SDII-1 Aquaculture for Rural Development
SDII-2 Supply of Good Quality Seeds
Component III: Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products
SDIII-1 Maximizing the Utilization of Fish Catch
SDIII-2 Fish Quality and Safety Management Systems
4. Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea
5. Environmental Related Task in Southeast Asia
6. Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals
7. Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish and Fish Products and the Environment such as Fishing Ground and Aquaculture Field
8. Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement for Threatened Species Under International Concerns
9. Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty

**LIST OF PROGRAM UNDER THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC FISHERIES
CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2006**

1. Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
2. Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues
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 Fisheries and Co-management
1.2 Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
1.3 Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature)
1.4 Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement
1.5 Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses
1.6 The use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
1.7 Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries
Component Program II: Aquaculture
2.1 Development of Technologies for Sustainable Aquaculture
2.2 Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture
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
3.2 Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries
3.3 Good Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries
4. Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea
5. Environmental Related Task in Southeast Asia
6. Establishment of Fish Disease Surveillance System
7. Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish, Fish Products and the Environment such as Fishing Ground and Aquaculture Field
8. Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement for Species under International Concerns
9. Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty

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 (ASWGF_i) 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 ASWGF_i 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

ASWGFi 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 dose 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 advantages 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 ASWGF 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

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

31. 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).

32. 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.

33. 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

34. 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

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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

39. 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).

40. 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

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

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL STUDY ON ECO-LABELLING
OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS: GENERAL VIEW AND FUTURE
CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ASEAN REGION**

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reliance on fisheries and aquaculture in the ASEAN region as a mean of providing foreign revenue, poverty alleviation and food security is evident. However, there is a general concern that overexploitation of the marine resources has made the fisheries productivity continually declining. At the same time, aquaculture has been encouraged to compensate for the reduced marine productivity so as to meet the demand in the global markets. The dependency of fisheries and aquaculture on natural resources and the importance of these sectors when it comes to national economies are also well recognized. Hence, a common concern in the region has been raised over how to maintain sustainable trade of fisheries and aquaculture products for sustainable livelihood of local people.

Trade- and environmental issues associated with fisheries and aquaculture products have been discussed widely in the region. These issues are even more important today due to the increasing demand of environmentally-preferred products by the consumers. As a result, it has become a real challenge for the region to be able to respond to the consumers' expectations. This challenge implies the development of environmentally-friendly fisheries and aquaculture production as well as the communication of environmental information to consumers.

Eco-labelling, also known as Environmental labelling, is a symbol, logo, text or data sheet of environmental profiles attached to a product to indicate its origin from environmentally-sustainable practices. It has emerged as a tool to provide environmental information of products to consumers. Eco-labelling is seen as a mean to differentiate the products to assist consumers in their purchasing decisions for environmentally-friendly products.

The eco-labelling issues have been received a special interest in the international fish trade forum. It is seen as a potential tool to stimulate more responsible fisheries and aquaculture practices and hence improving sustainability. Whilst the eco-labelling principles are consistent with the sustainability concepts, there are however major concern given to its impacts on trade

Due to the many questions raised over advantages and disadvantages of eco-labelling implementation to the ASEAN countries, a regional study on Eco-labelling of aquatic products was initiated by SEAFDEC. The study was conducted with technical support from the Swedish Board of Fisheries and financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), from November 2005 to February 2006. The information regarding eco-labelling issues was obtained from 12 questionnaires, interviews/meetings with 450 people, and 10 site visits in nine countries. It has been compiled to represent the general views and future consideration for the region.

The overall impression based on this regional study is that there are some vague ideas about what eco-labelling is. Its scope and definition is not yet clearly understood. Hence, there are both positive and negative views on eco-labelling from various stakeholders. Most of the countries consider eco-labelling as an environmental management tool to encourage more responsible practices. It is seen as an opportunity to add value, particularly to traditional products, and to facilitate the access to potential markets where a premium price can be expected.

However, many countries look at eco-labelling as a regulation imposed by importing countries to discriminate ASEAN products – this might create a non-tariff barrier to trade. A great concern over the feasibility and practicality of eco-labelling principle and criteria is given to multi-species fisheries in ASEAN. More importantly, eco-labelling markets are not yet certain and premium price of eco-labelled products are not guaranteed. All countries raise a common concern regarding the practical approaches of eco-labelling implementation in terms of principle and criteria development as well as certification procedures. Costs associated with certification systems are also raised as a major issue of consideration, especially to small-scale producers. Capacity building together with technical and financial assistance is demanded if eco-labelling will be implemented.

On the other side, there are great opportunities for the ASEAN region attached to eco-labelling adoption identified by this study. Eco-labelling principles are consistent with sustainable management strategies practiced in the region. Moreover, the eco-labelling criteria seem compatible with the environmental management aspects covered in existing environmental conservation and management programmes. Possible options for eco-labelling schemes have been suggested here: species-, community- and processing-oriented, which are basically originated from extensive, poly-culture or low-input production systems. The institutions responsible for monitoring and certifying environmental management programmes (such as CoC, GAP, BMP or Organic) can be the same for the eco-labelling schemes. The study also found out that there are national eco-labelling schemes in some countries which could be adopted or adjusted to fisheries and aquaculture products.

By analyzing the ASEAN situation, issues to be considered concerning the eco-labelling application to aquatic products are:

- Should we consider the opportunities attached to eco-labelling application more carefully to prevent it from becoming a barrier to trade;
- Should we adopt the international Eco-labelling principles and criteria;
- Should we develop regional principles and criteria;
- Should we only ecolabel products that are technically and economically feasible;
- Should we start with species originate from existing sustainable practices; and
- Who should be responsible for the technical and financial supports for further development on Eco-labelling?

In conclusion, several countries share the same opinion that eco-labelling will be implemented only if it is required from importing countries (which is not yet the case). Most of the countries prefer taking the eco-labelling actions step by step, in a very cautious way.

Based on the increased demand for eco-labelled products, it is highly recommended that the eco-labelling issues should be approached in a pro-active way. Capacity and awareness building on Eco-labelling principles and criteria as well as certification procedure should be provided to ASEAN countries – International institutions (SEAFDEC, FAO, and NACA) working and leading on the Eco-labelling issues can take an active role. The practical implementation of Eco-labelling should be demonstrated through pilot projects, which could be the species, originate from existing sustainable practices. To ensure the marketing channels for Eco-labelling products, marketing research should be conducted to identify potential markets and pricing systems; the communication with markets should be performed along with the further development of eco-labelling. All of these will urge the communities to take up the challenge on eco-labelling.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The principle of eco-labelling, based on the present level of understanding among ASEAN countries, is corresponding to the environmental sustainability concepts. It is therefore seen as a potential way to stimulate responsible fishing and aquaculture practices. However, the reluctance to adopt the eco-labelling scheme is due mainly to the major concern over its impacts on trade. All countries share a common concern about the practical implementation of eco-labelling specific for the nature of fisheries and aquaculture activities in the ASEAN region. Costs associated with certification systems are also raised as an issue of concern, especially to small-scale producers. Even so, there are several products and processes explored in this study that are being produced in a sustainable way. The most feasible and practical eco-labelling schemes can be divided into three different categories: species-, community- and process-oriented. 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. In some countries, eco-labelling is seen as a marketing tool to add more value and to promote their traditional products. Considering the possible options of eco-labelling, it should be seen as an opportunity rather than a regulation imposed by international organizations, favoring western importers.

Recommendations

- 1) The local capacity on eco-labelling principles, criteria development, certification procedures and awareness on sustainability among all stakeholders should be built up;
- 2) The practical and relevant eco-labelling principles and criteria for the ASEAN region should be developed;
- 3) Pilot projects to demonstrate how to implement eco-labelling of existing sustainable practices should be initiated;
- 4) Market studies to further analyze potential markets for eco-labelled products and to investigate how to marketing the products should be conducted;

- 5) 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
- 6) 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.

Annex 7

**PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SIDA)**

I. INTRODUCTION

On 29 August 2003 the Agreement was signed between the National Swedish Board of Fisheries (NBF) and SEAFDEC for the implementation of a support, during 2003 to 2006, from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the NBF to “Human Resource Development on the Support of Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Management for the ASEAN Region”. In the near future, such collaborative program is going to finish.

With the view of SEAFDEC Council at the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC in April 2005 and the Special Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC in November 2005, it is suggested that for future operation of SEAFDEC to seek additional support from non-traditional sources. In addition, there is also an indication being given by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) on interests for continued collaboration with SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member Countries beyond the period of the existing agreement (ending by the end of 2006). Further, having explore areas of future collaborative between SEAFDEC and Sida, the next phase of collaboration will focus on two main areas; 1) collaboration n existing program in areas of human resources development, and 2) Project on Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region

**II. CONTINUED COLLABORATION ON EXISTING PROGRAM IN AREAS
OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

SEAFDEC have maintained a dialogue with Sida on the scope of continued cooperation. The main prospects are based on a continuation of the existing program in areas of human resources development particularly on fisheries management in support of the implementation of responsible fisheries and the Resolution and Plan of Action, including follow up to the regional study on eco-labelling.

The experience from the on-going Sida-supported, and other programs, indicates that the major issue in managing fisheries in the ASEAN region is to manage the active fishing capacity be it destructive fishing in near coastal areas, seasonal reduction of capacity to protect important areas for reproduction or reduction of over-capacity in the industrial fishing fleets. A focus, or a need to address fishing capacity in a cross-cutting manner, in the development of programs for future Swedish support were also recommended during an annual review meeting with SBF, while still emphasizing the need to give priority to poverty alleviation.

With an over-arching aim to address issues related to fishing capacity and fishing effort the next stage of Swedish support will, in following up to the present agreement, be proposed to have the following focus:

- a) Strengthening of local fisheries management capacity;

- b) Integrating fisheries management into habitat management (including the concept of refugia); and
- c) Reviews of the size and structure of industrial or large-scale fisheries (follow on to FAO-Sida work in Thailand).

Another thrust will be a continued support to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC consultative processes to strengthen regional cooperation on fisheries management including fisheries related environmental aspects. Activities will be built into a larger program format and not as a range of separate projects integrating a basic focus on a social context to support poverty alleviation.

III. SEAFDEC-SIDA PROJECT ON SUPPORT TO TSUNAMI REHABILITATION OF AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN THE ASEAN REGION

During the Seventh Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG), Hanoi, Vietnam, 4 April 2005 and the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC, Hanoi, Vietnam, 5 – 8 April, 2005 the 'ASEAN-SEAFDEC Plan of Action on Its Regional Cooperation for the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Fisheries in ASEAN Tsunami Affected Areas' were discussed and endorsed based on recommendations provided by the Informal Consultation on SEAFDEC Supports to Fisheries Relief Program for the Tsunami Affected Countries of ASEAN in Hanoi, Vietnam on 3 April 2005. The Plan of Action has also been endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF).

The FCG and Council Meetings, respectively, also endorsed the priority areas for SEAFDEC assistance as identified by the tsunami affected Member Countries. These priority areas are recommended to accommodate common areas of required assistance into existing programs of activity within the available resources or develop them into a new program to appeal to donors for funding supports. The common areas are:

- Assessment of impacts on fisheries resources and eco-system,
- Policy and technical advise on national fisheries rehabilitation policy and action plan, and
- Awareness and capacity building including technical training to support rehabilitation activities and safety at sea.

In response to the 2005 FCG and Council recommendations, the Plan of Action and a request from Sweden to SEAFDEC to develop a post-tsunami (sub-)regional program, it bring about to initiate the SEAFDEC-Sida Project on Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region, a preliminary draft appears as **Appendix 1**.

The Goal and Immediate Objective of the program that has been discussed with Sida include and ambition to support continued rehabilitation and restoration of fisheries and livelihoods of fisher-folk in ASEAN Tsunami affected countries. More specifically the aim is to build up/rebuild capacity for the management of fisheries and important coastal habitats, based on the active involvement of coastal communities including integration of traditional practices and rights-based fisheries in support of poverty alleviation.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROPOSAL ON SEAFDEC-SIDA PROJECT ON SUPPORT TO TSUNAMI REHABILITATION OF AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN THE ASEAN REGION

I. BACKGROUND

In the wake of the tsunami tragedy, hit the coastlines of many South and Southeast Asian countries and caused of huge devastation to the areas and its people. As the wave directly hit some of the ASEAN countries, e.g. Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand, there are reports that rehabilitation responses has been developed without due regard for their longer term affects and may be dominated by highly visible but not necessarily well-considered options, such as replacing lost boats and gear which can lead to increased fishing capacity and further un-sustainability of stocks and threats to livelihoods. Given the large number of projects, activities and initiatives no attempt will be made here to come up with a list. The important point of departure is that, as more information on impacts, interventions, long-term needs, etc are emerging there is a need to try to identify the present situation and to provide guidance for the interventions to be done for the longer term restoration – and to identify how that process should lead into the “regular” mechanism for fisheries management and coastal development.

II. PROJECT STRATEGY

This project is developed the expressed recommendations also to involve regional organizations in the rehabilitation and restoration process – with a special focus on poorer groups being dependent on fisheries and coastal resources. The project will not be implemented by SEAFDEC in isolation but will rely on cooperation with other regional/international and national bodies (see more below). SEAFDEC will provide an opportunity to lift the perspective from the direct intervention at local level to see how collective efforts contribute to longer term sustainability. The timing should be good as experiences from different localities are emerging.

The basic strategy is to build upon expressed needs, in the wake of the tsunami, to improve management of fisheries (including fishing capacity) and to better manage costal environments, including restoration as needed, as a protection against future hazards while at the same time provide an important element to the sustainability of the fisheries by securing important habitats. The strategy also involves capacity building for better management including capacity to better involve – and listen to – local communities.

III. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

At the regional level, co-operation should be maintained with the CONSRN⁵, UNEP COBSEA and other relevant institutions to avoid duplication, to provide a basis for

⁵ 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).

continued sharing of information and to secure other inputs as needed. This will also give the opportunity to give feedback on project activities of these organizations and their counterparts. At national level the core counterpart will be the fisheries related agencies and through them involvements of others will be arranged as recommended in the sets of workshops to be organized.

IV. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

4.1 Goal/Development Objective

To support the rehabilitation and restoration of fisheries and livelihoods of fisher-folk in ASEAN Tsunami affected countries

4.2 Immediate Objective

In the wake of the tsunami to build up/rebuild capacity for the management of fisheries and important coastal habitats, based on the active involvement of coastal communities including integration of traditional practices and rights-based fisheries in support of poverty alleviation.

4.3 Outputs

- a) Project well managed
- b) Progress reviews and impact monitoring reports on fisher-folk and fisheries
- c) Reports on assessed and analyzed impacts on fisheries and eco-system
- d) Policy advise and technical advise on national fisheries rehabilitation and sustainable development provided
- e) Awareness raising and capacity building provided to support rehabilitation activities related to sustainable fisheries
- f) Management options provided for the sustainable management of fisheries and habitats of importance for fish reproduction and protection against future natural hazards (introduction of the refugia concept)
- g) Management of over-capacity in the post-tsunami rehabilitation addressed
- h) A training programme for safety-at-sea is initiated and partly implemented through training (of trainers)

4.4 Activities

Tentative activities have been preliminarily identified, which are not meant to match particular specific outputs instead various activities can be supportive in achieving more than one output. The indicative activities listed below are in many cases formulated and implemented in collaborative with other national and regional agencies.

- a) Regional/National Technical Consultations on tsunami impact assessment on various aspects, rehabilitation and restoration of fisheries and livelihoods with a focus on fisher-folk, fisheries and important habitats as well as dialogue with CONSRN, affected member countries, other member countries and relevant organizations and institutions.

- b) Awareness and capacity building including conduct of meetings/training sessions and other events among concerned people and institutions at national and local level in affected countries to share and discuss on suitable policy and technical advises on national fisheries rehabilitation and sustainable development, as well as capacity building for co-managed fisheries and rehabilitation, issues of safety-at-sea standards, protection and management of fish habitats, and to promote Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- c) Review the existing data and information and prepare synthesis relating to fisheries and eco-systems, national legislation and institutional arrangements pertaining to management, exploitation of fisheries and critical habitats for fish stock conservation and protection with analysis on their relevance in mitigating impacts of natural disasters. This is to be considered by the affected countries for future follow-up activities.
- d) Prepare specific action plan the need to address over-fishing, destructive fishing practices and fishing capacity in the rehabilitation process, and priorities for fisheries management for protection against future natural disasters, fish stocks conservation and sustainable fisheries practices (including efforts to mitigate effects of future natural disasters) among small and artisanal fishing communities).
- e) Review and prepare objective the criteria and indicators currently, components of socio-economic valuation, including trans-boundary significance of specific areas based on national needs and policies for using at national level.
- f) 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

V. BUDGET AND FINANCING

The budget is based on a suggested/indicated (from Sida) budget of around SEK 8 million for a two to three year period.

VI. PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

➤ *First six months: Starting point, regional level dialogue*

Starting point will be a Regional Technical Consultation will be organized to assess openly the achievements done so far, problems encountered and to reconfirm continued actions that need to be taken.

➤ *National level dialogue and Local level dialogue & activities*

Following the recommendations from the regional gathering consultations will be organized in the two worst affected countries, Indonesia and Thailand to further fine tune actions to be taken and partners to involve in the process.

➤ *Second six months: Activity plan for the period developed*

The continued detailed work plan for the second six-month period will have been worked out during the first six months in consultation with member countries, CONSRN members and other organizations.

➤ ***Subsequent activity plans***

The continued detailed work plan will be worked out at six-monthly intervals including activities and expected outputs (could also be at yearly basis if agreed upon with Sida). There will also be a six-monthly report on gained results and experiences.

N.B. activities involving training is seen as a continuous process involving combination of training courses, on the job training, active participation in activities, etc.

VII. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION ON THE RELEVANCE AND FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

With the view to success the project implementation, it should be taken into consideration of relevance, feasibility, institutional set up and governance as well as sustainability.

STATUS AND PROGRESS OF PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE ASEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE YEAR 2006

I. Project Title: Human Resource Development (HRD) for Sustainable Development of Fisheries in Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Region

Project Duration: 24 months (March 2005 to February 2007)

Project Objectives:

The project objectives are 1) to enhance human resource capacity of the concerned staff in the project areas in order to develop appropriate supporting mechanism and capacity for the future promotional activities on the sustainable fisheries SMEs development programs, and 2) to exchange experiences among the target countries in planning and conduct of HRD activities as a basis for future intra-regional collaboration in sustainable development of fisheries particularly for SMEs.

Project Description:

Considering the needs of the target countries and major sub-sectors of fisheries, human resources development activities can be mainly categorized into marine capture fisheries (sea-based) activities and aquaculture and post-harvest (land-based) activities.

1) Marine Capture Fisheries: This project aims to develop capacity building of human resource on fisheries resources research and survey, which mainly focus on marine resources particularly on off shore, un-trawlable grounds; continental shelf slope areas and restricted areas in terms of investigating the entire fish stock and appropriate fishing technology for harvesting. Since Brunei Darussalam do not have large potential on the capture fisheries, in view of the regional (BIMP-EAGA)/national strategic aspects, marine capture fisheries component will not be conducted.

2) Aquaculture: A series of in-situ Participatory Workshops shall be conducted in the identified localities of the BIMP-EAGA region. Target participants are front-line fisheries or agriculture officers assigned to promote and assist in aquaculture development at the local level. The participants shall then present their respective area reports for group discussion. Based upon the inputs of the resource persons, their area reports and the discussions to follow the participants shall be asked to prepare a proposal for implementation. At the end of the workshop each participant is expected to bring home specific plans for implementation in their respective areas.

3) Post-harvest Technology: The HRD activities will be comprised of Train-the-Trainers Workshop and Training Course on Fish Quality Preservation and Safety (HACCP). The resource materials for the HRD activities will be based on training materials already developed by MFRD, namely, the "Training Manual on Fish Quality Preservation" and "Training Courses on HACCP Competencies".

Expected Outputs:

It is expected that the project would achieve effective in-country coordination with concerned agencies including coast guard prior to the HRD. Awareness of policy-makers on the importance of HRD as an essential part of overall development planning of fisheries in the target areas, enhance capacity of trained government personnel, and clear follow-up directions in the field of marine capture fisheries, aquaculture, and post-harvest technology.

Progress and Achievements:

1) Marine Capture Fisheries: Shipboard training had been conducted by SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) using MV SEAFDEC 2 training vessel from 13 June to 16 August 2005. There were 3 training cruises conducted in Western Kalimantan, Indonesia; West Coast of Sabah, Malaysia; and East Coast of Palawan Islands, the Philippines. All training cruises participated by 12 researchers from each country including one researcher from Brunei Darussalam. All data and information collected during the training program were provided to the national researchers for further analysis.

2) Aquaculture: The Aquaculture Department has successfully implemented the Participatory Workshop for Responsible Aquaculture for Fisheries Officers and Coastal District of Sabah during 13 to 16 December 2005 in Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia and fisheries officers of the Philippines in Zamboanga during 19 to 21 February 2006. Although the HRD\Project can sponsor only 18 participants due to budgetary limitations, the final number of participants reached 42 persons. The extra numbers of participants were all sponsored by the Sabah Department of Fisheries.

3) Post-harvest Technology: The first Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Fish Quality Preservation and Safety (HACCP) was successfully conducted for Malaysia and Brunei in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah from 9 to 11 November 2005. A total of 12 government personnel including 2 from Brunei, 2 from Terengganu and 8 from Sabah, who are involved in training of extension officers, attended the Workshop. The 3-day Workshop provided and introduced the resource materials (training manuals, etc) as well as the methodology to conduct the Training Course on Fish Quality Preservation and Safety (HACCP).

II. Project Title: Human Resource Development (HRD) on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region

Project Duration: 24 months (April 2006 to March 2008)

Project Objectives:

The project objectives are to enhance human resource capacity of the concerned government staff of the beneficiary countries and the small-scale fishers in the selected sites through the implementation of on-site HRD activities. Considering the regionality and practical approaches of the project, the following detailed objectives are identified.

- 1) Development of the regional policy on the poverty alleviation by the fisheries intervention through HRD activities in short, medium and long- term prospects.
- 2) Identification of prioritized HRD programs on thematic areas based on the regional, national and local needs.
- 3) Implementation of the appropriate HRD activities to mitigate the rural poor by the fisheries intervention.

Project Description:

The project will comprise the following activities:

1) First Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Human Resources Development (HRD) for Poverty Alleviation

The consultation will be conducted to 1) develop the regional policy on the role of fisheries for the poverty alleviation reflecting the analysis on the respective national problems; 2) identify the technical issues, which will be critical for the poverty alleviation with envisaging practical problems in the specific areas; 3) clarify the role of small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) with respect to the poverty alleviation of the rural poor, and 4) identify the five project sites for the implementation of appropriate on-site HRD activities. In order to identify the five project sites, the policy makers and appropriate technical staff who are responsible for the extension work of the central government of the ASEAN Member Countries will be invited to the three days RTC.

2) Human Resources Development (HRD) Activities on Thematic Areas

Based on the outcomes of the RTC above, HRD activities in respective technical areas will be conducted in five different sites mobilizing technical experiences and facilities of SEAFDEC Departments. The five technical areas will be proposed as follows:

- 1) Local/indigenous institution and co-management: *Secretariat*
- 2) Responsible fishing technologies: *Training Department*
- 3) Backyard fishery post-harvest technology: *Marine Fisheries Research Department*
- 4) Rural aquaculture: *Aquaculture Department*
- 5) Inland fisheries development: *Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department*

A 10-day individual HRD activities will be conducted at respective Departments. The central and provincial government staffs, who are responsible for the extension work of ASEAN Member Countries, will be invited for the HRD activities. The envisaged activities will be to further identify the specific requirements of the HRD issues in each respective site in collaborative manner (involvement of SEAFDEC, central and provincial government of the respective sites).

Based on the outcomes of discussion, the staff of the Secretariat in collaboration with ASEAN Member Countries will prepare the appropriate HRD materials to be used in the on-site HRD activities.

3) On-site Human Resources Development (HRD) Activities

HRD Activities at five specific sites as identified at the 1st RTC will be conducted by mobilizing regional expertise both SEAFDEC side and also from the Member Countries. This will enable the Member Countries to be involved in the implementation of on-site activities. The on-site HRD activities for marine coastal fisheries will be proposed at three sites, to include two sites for Tsunami affected areas (Aceh, Indonesia and Andaman coast of Thailand, which are the most affected areas from tsunami in the ASEAN region), while two sites will be for inland fisheries . The following are the required steps to implement the project activities.

- i.) Identification of specific local indigenous institution for the sites.
- ii.) Identification of the types and manners of HRD activities.
- iii.) Identification of the appropriate numbers of beneficiaries.
- iv.) Collaboration mechanism with the host governments.
- v.) Finalization of the Terms of Reference of the staff involved both for national and regional technical staff.
- vi.) Coordination mechanism among the five thematic HRD activities.

4) Second Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Human Resources Development (HRD) for Poverty Alleviation

The Consultation will be organized to evaluate the project activities, identify the follow up activities to be conducted with respect to the poverty alleviation by fisheries intervention. Considering the existing regional policy frameworks and priority actions in fisheries and HRD particularly the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region” adopted in 2001 and the “Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region”, adopted in 2004, the Consultation is expected to strengthen these policy directions on fisheries for poverty alleviation. The policy makers and appropriate technical staff who are responsible for the extension work of the central government of the ASEAN Member Countries will be invited to the three days RTC. The proceedings of RTC will be used as basis for the project final report.

Expected Outputs:

After the whole process of project activities, it is expected that regional policy for poverty alleviation will be developed, including enhancement of fisheries officials and fishers capacity as well as strengthening of national and local government cooperation. It is also envisaged that the effective implementation of the HRD activities on thematic issues at the local level will be the key to develop the cooperation mechanism within the ASEAN Member Countries.

Progress and Achievements:

The Secretariat had submitted the project proposal to the Embassy of Japan in Bangkok on 2 February 2006. Currently, the proposal is being considered throughout the official process of Japan.

III. Project Title: Gender and Development on the Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)” System to Alleviate Rural Poverty for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region

Project Duration: 24 Months (August 2006-July 2008)

Project Objectives:

In order to improve fisheries livelihood through motivation of the potential people in the fishing communities in ASEAN Member Countries through introduction and promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)”, the project would focus on the following detailed objectives through various HRD activities.

- 1) To enhance the awareness on the gender and development in the fishing communities, especially to clarify the role and function of women’s group for the development of small- scale economic activities in the community level.
- 2) To develop the regional strategy on the development and promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)” especially the policy to support these activities through the government services,
- 3) To evaluate the needs and problem areas on the introduction and development of “One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)” in each ASEAN Member Country
- 4) To identify the regional mechanism requirement to support the promotional work on “One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)”

Project Description:

The project will comprise the following activities:

1) 1st Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on “One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)”

The government officers from each ASEAN Member Countries will be invited to participate in the Consultation with the aim to discuss on the project objectives, regional policy on the issues and manner for the implementation of the planned activities. The RTC will also finalize type of activities, identification of beneficiaries, expected outputs, timing and venues of respective activities and responsibilities of parties concerned.

2) Development of the Materials for Training and Awareness Building

2-1) HRD Supporting Materials

To facilitate on various HRD activities, the following materials will be prepared by regional experts and SEAFDEC Secretariat:

- Draft strategy and guidelines for the promotion of FOVOP in ASEAN region including institution buildings of the women’s group in the fishing community;
- Draft strategy and guidelines for the support of government agencies on the promotion of FOVOP;
- Draft guidelines for the mobilization of the micro-credit in rural areas.

2-2) Draft Guidelines on the Identification of the FOVOP Product

In addition to the above materials promotional guidelines on the Identification of the FOVOP Product will be prepared in order to evaluate the potential in respective communities on the introduction of FOVOP movement.

3) 1st HRD Workshop on Identification and of Potential and Problem Areas for the Promotion of FOVOP in ASEAN Region

HRD workshop will be organized to discuss on the implementation of the case studies using the HRD Materials prepared by regional experts and SEAFDEC Secretariat. The central and national government officers (excluding Brunei Darussalam and Singapore) will be invited to exchange views and experiences on the issues. It is envisaged that after the process of discussion, the workshop would come up with the standardized methodologies of the case study and 5 selected sites using the identified criteria.

4) Case Studies on the Promotion of FOVOP in ASEAN Region

The case study will be conducted as local consultation meeting with the representative of the identified women's group using local languages and materials. More detailed and localized potential and problem areas will be identified through the exchange of experiences of the participants. This is also to verify the applicability of the HRD materials.

5) Revision of HRD Materials

The responsible officer of the central government will revise the regional HRD materials including strategies and guidelines accommodating the findings through the local consultation meeting, and then the Secretariat will revise the regional HRD materials (including Strategies and guidelines) so as to reflect the outcomes of the case studies.

6) 2nd/final HRD Workshop on Identification and of Potential and Problem Areas for the Promotion of FOVOP in ASEAN Region

The final HRD Workshop will be organized by participation of four government officers both central and local government (excluding Brunei Darussalam and Singapore). Through reviewing of revised HRD materials and exchanging the experiences of the participants, it is envisaged that regional strategies and guidelines will be finalized as enumerated below:

- i.) Regional Strategy and Guidelines for the promotion of FOVOP in ASEAN Region.
- ii.) Regional Strategy and Guidelines for the Support of Government Agencies on the Promotion of FOVOP
- iii.) Regional Guidelines for the Mobilization of the Micro-Credit in Rural areas.
- iv.) Regional Guidelines on the Identification of the FOVOP Products

As SEAFDEC is considered as technical competence agency in various disciplines of fisheries, the workshop will further discuss on the development of regional network to

promote FOVOP in the ASEAN Region which SEAFDEC can act as a core function linking with the respective national networks.

Expected Outputs:

Throughout the process of activities, awareness building on the implementation of FOVOP with the objectives to improve small-scale fisheries livelihood will be enhanced as well as business initiative mobilizing gender and development in the fishing community.

Further, the following strategies and guidelines will be clarified and understood among the various stakeholders in the region.

- i.) Regional strategy and guidelines for the promotion of FOVOP in ASEAN Region, especially on HRD motivating local people and encouragement for the appropriate institutional set up including women's group.
- ii.) Regional strategy and guidelines for the support of government agencies on the promotion of FOVOP
- iii.) Regional guidelines for the mobilization of the micro-credit in rural areas.
- iv.) Regional guidelines on the Identification of the FOVOP Products

Progress:

A draft project proposal is under the conceptualize process.