



**REPORT OF THE FORTIETH MEETING OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE SOUTHEAST
ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

Bangkok, Thailand
27-29 November 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fortieth Meeting of the Program Committee (40PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 to 29 November 2017 and hosted by the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD).

2. The 40PCM was attended by the SEAFDEC Program Committee Members for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam together with their respective delegations as well as representatives from collaborating partners, namely: FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (FAO/RAP), Inland Fisheries Training Center of Gifu Prefecture in Japan, Mekong River Commission (MRC), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), and the USAID/Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID/Oceans). The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and Department Chiefs as *ex-officio* members of the SEAFDEC Program Committee together with officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments also attended the Meeting. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The Chief of SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), *Mr. Yeap Soon Eong* welcomed the participants to the 40PCM. He expressed his appreciation to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for assisting MFRD in making the necessary arrangements for the Meeting. He mentioned that 2017 is a significant year for SEAFDEC as it celebrated its 50th Anniversary. During such occasion, the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council of Directors was convened with the adoption of the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030” to support the formulation of SEAFDEC regional programs and activities. In addition, he reiterated that the important function of the PCM is to review the programs of SEAFDEC in 2017 and scrutinize the activities to be implemented in 2018 to ensure that the activities address the requirements of the Member Countries. His Welcome Remarks appears as **Annex 2**.

4. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Program Committee, expressed the appreciation to MFRD for hosting the 40PCM. He also thanked the Member Countries for making the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC a successful and memorable one. He indicated that the SEAFDEC Program Committee Members are expected to review the results of the program implemented in 2017 and endorse the proposed program of activities for 2018, and cited that the outputs of 40PCM would be submitted to the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and approval, as well as to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) as appropriate through the Twentieth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) to be held back-to-back with the 40PCM. He also encouraged the participants to actively take part in the deliberations and provide recommendations towards promoting the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, and then declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 3**.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS OF THE MEETING

5. The Agenda which appears as **Annex 4** was adopted.

III. REVIEW OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE YEAR 2017 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2018

6. The Program Committee took note of the twenty projects under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism that have been categorized based on the SEAFDEC Program Thrusts endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council during its Forty-first Meeting in 2009 and two Special Projects. In addition, one new project which started in 2017 was also reviewed. The progress and achievements of the projects in 2017 and the corresponding program of activities proposed for 2018 were reported by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The results of the review process as well as the recommendations of the Program Committee will be submitted for endorsement to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC.

3.1 Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism

7. The Program Committee noted the progress and achievements of the Secretariat and the Departments in the implementation of the various projects in 2017, as well as the activities proposed for 2018 (**Annex 5**). The Program Committee provided recommendations for the improvement of the projects and activities as follows:

3.1.1 Progress of Implementation of Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2017

Program Thrust I: Developing and Promoting Responsible Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security

(1) Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries

8. While reiterating that the objective of the project focuses on the well-being of fishers and improving their incomes through value-adding of their catch, the Program Committee Member for Viet Nam expressed the view that there is not much connection between the activities implemented from 2013 to 2019 and the project objective, and sought clarification on how the results of the activities in the pilot sites could be applied in other areas. In response, the representative from TD explained that this project initially focused on the conduct of training courses to introduce the sustainable management approaches to the Member Countries. In order to enhance the project's impact, pilot learning sites were established in Myanmar where the needs of fishers towards the improvement of their incomes were assessed. The result of the pilot activities will be evaluated at the end of the project, and the lessons learned would be summarized and shared with the other Member Counties.

9. While commending TD for the implementation of the project in Myanmar, as it has enhanced the capacity of officers of Department of Fisheries of Myanmar on fisheries management, the Program Committee Member for Myanmar agreed to the activities proposed to be implemented under this project in his country in 2018.

10. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia congratulated TD for its efforts in promoting human resource development in the region and supported the implementation of the project activities proposed for 2018. Nevertheless, he suggested that an evaluation should be conducted to make sure that the project has achieved its intended objectives, *e.g.* the skills of fisheries officers had been improved and income of fishers had increased. In this regard, the representative from TD explained that after conducting the training in the pilot learning sites, an evaluation will be carried out after which the follow-up activities could be planned.

11. While supporting the recommendation of the Program Committee Member for Indonesia, the Program Committee Member for Malaysia explained that baseline information on fishers' income is necessary to evaluate this project. Furthermore, she also indicated that the project activities after 2018 could be expanded to include training on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and offered to share the expertise of Malaysia on EAFM during the training.

12. In agreeing with the objective of the project on the need to increase the incomes of fishers, the Program Committee Member for the Philippines suggested that the outputs of this project including the lessons learned could be shared with the other Member Countries. She also recommended that a value supply chain study should be carried out to determine any improvement in the income of fishers. In such study however, baseline information on the income of fishers would be necessary.

13. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia suggested that Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) should be developed not only for this project but for all SEAFDEC projects, to be used for the projects' evaluation. In this regard, SEAFDEC would correspondingly incorporate KPIs in the projects under the new Japanese Trust Fund JTF-7. The 40PCM recommended that henceforth, KPIs should be considered as part of all SEAFDEC projects to facilitate project evaluation by the Program Committee

(2) Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities

14. The 40PCM was informed that this project aims to promote energy optimization by reducing fuel consumption and minimize carbon emission, and hence the results would not indicate any possible increase in the CPUE. However, the technologies developed under this project, *e.g.* improvement in the design of otter-board to reduce fuel in trawl and hauling devices to reduce labor in purse seine fishing would be promoted in the region.

15. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia expressed the appreciation to TD for conducting the "On-site Training on Optimizing Energy Use and Safety at Sea" on 3-5 October 2017 in Terengganu, Malaysia, as it has strengthened the knowledge of the technical staff on energy saving and safety at sea for small fishing vessels. She suggested that follow-up activities should be conducted under this project.

16. While commending TD for conducting the project, the Program Committee Member for the Philippines requested that the technologies developed under this project should be shared with the Member Countries, so that these could be used as basis for the development of national standards on energy optimization and safety at sea by the respective countries.

(3) Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia

17. The Program Committee Member for Viet Nam confirmed that the project activity planned to be implemented in Viet Nam in 2017 which had been postponed, would be implemented during the first quarter of 2018 under a cost-sharing scheme.

18. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia reiterated the willingness of Malaysia to collaborate with TD in the conduct of research under this project, particularly in comparing the efficiency between fish aggregating devices (FADs), fish enhancing devices (FEDs) and artificial reefs (ARs), as previously expressed during as the 38PCM.

19. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for selecting Lao PDR as one of the Project's pilot sites in 2017 of which the activities were postponed to 2018, the Program Committee Member for Lao PDR inquired whether there would be other additional activities in Lao PDR in 2018. In response, TD explained that although there would be no additional activities for Lao PDR under this project, TD would address the requirements of Lao PDR through the other relevant activities that SEAFDEC is implementing, *e.g.* information gathering through community-based management.

20. The Chief of AQD informed the 40PCM that AQD also implements community-based resource enhancement program, focusing on restocking and monitoring of hatchery-bred seeds released in the wild, and expressed the willingness of AQD to collaborate with TD and MFRDMD on this aspect. In this connection, the representative from TD confirmed that AQD would be invited to take part in the Meeting on Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia in January 2018, which is aimed at updating the status of the resource enhancement activities implemented in the Member Countries and by the SEAFDEC Departments.

(4) Environment-friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources

21. In response to query of the Program Committee Member for Indonesia on whether the sea cucumber seeds used for resource enhancement under this project come from the wild or hatchery-bred, the Chief of AQD explained that the seeds being used come from the AQD hatcheries as AQD had already successfully spawned sea cucumbers using wild stocks and had closed the cycle of reproduction of this commodity.

22. The Program Committee Member for the Philippines informed the 40PCM that the Philippine Government has identified five potential aquatic species for aquaculture, *i.e.* tilapia, seaweeds, shrimps, shellfishes, milkfish, and requested AQD to consider strengthening the collaboration with the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on the promotion of environmental-friendly aquaculture technologies, including transfer of the technologies to the private sector in the Philippines. While agreeing to address such request, the Chief of AQD informed the 40PCM that the Philippine Government recently re-launched the program “OPLAN Balik SUGPO” considering that for the past decades, *Penaeus monodon* has been out of the sideline since the coming in of *Litopenaeus vannamei* that led to many problems in aquaculture. AQD is therefore considering to focus again on the aquaculture of *P. monodon* since this species is endemic to the Philippines and can mitigate the aquatic disease problems as well. In this connection, AQD would seek the cooperation of BFAR on this aspect through the signing of an MOU with AQD.

23. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for the efforts it made under this project, the Program Committee Member for Singapore requested that the technologies developed under this project should be shared, particularly on the aquaculture of high-value aquaculture species.

24. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia expressed the interest in the technical development of aquaculture and requested AQD to provide opportunities for Malaysian researchers to join the research activities of AQD on breeding and hatchery seed production of the aquaculture species that it has been working on since Malaysia is also implementing several researches and studies on various aquaculture species. She also requested AQD to extend the invitation to Malaysian technical officers to attend the 37-day training program scheduled in 2018.

(5) Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia

25. In response to the observation made by the Program Committee Member for Japan that there are activities under this project that are not supported by the JTF, it was clarified that such activities are supported by another project funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integrated Fund (JAIF) starting in 2017. Nevertheless, the 40PCM was assured that both projects are complimentary to each other and not duplicating, since the activities including the surveys under these two projects are conducted in different locations.

26. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia reiterated the request of the Council Director for Japan during the 49th Meeting of the Council on the confidentiality policy for the accessibility of data from this project, and inquired when such data could be disclosed to the Member Countries. In response, the Program Committee was informed that after the Assessment Committee Meeting and Regional Committee Meeting to be conducted by IFRDMD in December 2017 and January 2018, respectively, data from this project could be disclosed to the Member Countries.

27. While expressing the appreciation to IFRDMD for the activities proposed to be implemented in Myanmar in 2018, the Program Committee Member for Myanmar requested that this project should also come up with recommendations for conservation measures of anguillid eels in Myanmar. In response, the Chief of IFRDMD explained that although the project initially focuses on data collection, later on it would also cover the development of conservation measures.

(6) Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia

28. While taking note of the studies on co-management and rights-based fisheries management applicable to inland fisheries conducted in the Philippines and Viet Nam, the Program Committee Member for Myanmar welcomed the possibility of implementing this project also in Myanmar. He informed the Program Committee that Myanmar is willing to collaborate closely with SEAFDEC in the implementation of inland fisheries management. In addition, considering that Myanmar has already established its digital library that contains results of research activities on inland fisheries of Myanmar, the relevant information could now be shared with SEAFDEC and other countries.

29. The Program Committee Member for the Philippines expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for giving the opportunity for the Philippines to participate in the implementation of this project. As inland fisheries management is very important in the region, she supported the efforts of SEAFDEC in the development of standards for data collection on inland fisheries. She subsequently highlighted the issue on invasive alien species as one of the major threats to the inland ecosystems, as well as on the need to determine the “carrying capacity” of inland water bodies.

(7) Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

30. The Program Committee Member for Viet Nam commended MFRDMD for the implementation of this project that focuses on the improvement of livelihood of the coastal communities through seaweed production and expressed the view that this project should be extended for the next phase implementation. Nevertheless, since the linkage between the seaweed production and marketing is still unclear, she subsequently suggested that for the next phase implementation, SEAFDEC should make a link to the ASEAN Commodity Working Group.

31. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia supported the proposal for the project to be extended until 2018 without additional budget. While adding that the project has benefitted the coastal people in Malaysia, she also supported the recommendation of the Program Committee Member for Viet Nam to extend this project for other Member Countries under the JTF-7. She suggested that MFRDMD should be involved in the project implementation under JTF-7 since it is a continuation of the current project.

32. The Chief of MFRDMD informed the Meeting that although this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017, a request has been made for the extension of the project for another six months. He added that under the JTF-7, a new project will be proposed with features that are similar to this project. The new project would cover the countries that are not participating in the first project.

Program Thrust II: Enhancing Capacity and Competitiveness to Facilitate International and Intra-regional Trade

(8) Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish Products in Southeast Asia – Biotoxins (ASP, AZA and BTX) and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the ASEAN Region

33. The Program Committee noted that some project participating countries, *i.e.* Lao PDR, Philippines and Viet Nam, have not yet submitted the quarterly progress reports on their biotoxin monitoring surveys but are in the process of compiling the report. Nevertheless, as for Lao PDR, the Program Committee Member for Lao PDR informed the 40PCM that the survey was not conducted considering that the country has not experienced any problem on biotoxins in its inland fisheries.

(9) Cold Chain Management for Seafood

34. While congratulating MFRD for the completion of project on Cold Chain Management for Seafood, the Program Committee Member for Thailand declared that Thailand is looking forward to the publication of the Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood and suggested that the Guidelines should be disseminated to the Member Countries.

(10) Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management and the Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region

35. While recognizing the importance of fish health management in aquaculture development, the Program Committee Member for the Philippines suggested that AQD should consider including Tilapia Lake Virus in its research activities as this is an emerging disease of high interest. In addition, she also indicated the need to conduct risk assessment of known shrimp diseases across the AMSs as well as on the importation of live shrimp broodstock for aquaculture purposes. Furthermore, she also requested AQD to include under this project capacity building activities on animal health epidemiology as a core discipline in disease management.

36. In this connection, the Chief of AQD explained that since a number of scientific works had already attained technical advancements in addressing fish diseases, AQD will be putting these findings into practical implementation. This will be carried out not only for shrimps, but also for groupers and snappers. Furthermore, the Program Committee was informed that AQD is now in the process of establishing the screening and quarantine procedures in preventing the transboundary spread of aquatic animal diseases.

Program Thrust III: Improving Management Concepts and Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries

(11) Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities

37. The Program Committee Member for Viet Nam informed the Meeting that Viet Nam has been notified by the European Commission (EC) for possible identification as non-cooperating third country in fighting IUU fishing, and thus there is a need for the countries in the region to develop strong measures for combating IUU fishing. She also made an observation that during the 39PCM, the activities to be implemented under this project was discussed, but no activities had been planned for 2017. She then suggested that activities under this project in 2018 could focus on the implementation of PSM starting from designated ports, development of mechanism to tackle issues on transfer of raw materials in/out/among countries in the region, and the development of a database to facilitate cross-checking of information from logbook to enhance product traceability.

38. In this regard, the representative from TD informed the 40PCM that no activity was implemented in 2017 as the necessary expertise on port State measures could not be availed of in spite of the requests made with several organizations, *e.g.* NOAA and FAO to provide the resource persons. However, SEAFDEC would be able to avail of the services of the necessary resource persons during the workshop proposed to be conducted in February 2018, which will initially involve the fishery managers. The subsequent workshops later would involve the fishing vessel inspectors.

39. The Program Committee Member for Thailand offered to share the lessons of Thailand through SEAFDEC coordination on the improvement of traceability system for combating IUU fishing, *e.g.* on VMS, Port-In Port-Out Control (PIPO) Center, Catch Documentation.

40. The representative from FAO reiterated the commitment of FAO to continue working closely with SEAFDEC in supporting the Member Countries towards the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). He added that the support of FAO is not only for countries that ratified the PSMA, but also those countries that are yet to ratify the Agreement.

41. The Program Committee Member for Myanmar suggested that the on-site training conducted by TD should not only target the staff of Department of Fisheries (DOF) but also those from other related agencies. In this regard, the representative from TD suggested that the invitation letter will be sent to the DOF of Myanmar, and the DOF could consider inviting the appropriate agencies to join the training.

(12) Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products

42. The 40PCM took note of the progress of implementation of the project as presented by the Chief of MFRDMD.

(13) Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

43. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia informed the 40PCM on the progress of the activities implemented in the priority *refugia* sites, *i.e.* in Tanjung Leman of Johor State for lobster conservation and Kuala Baram in Sarawak State for tiger prawn conservation. She also mentioned that Malaysia has established a *Refugia* Information Centre in Tanjung Leman to raise the awareness of the public and civil society organizations on the conservation of lobsters in the area.

44. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing the project, the Program Committee Member for Viet Nam explained that Viet Nam is one of the two countries that have not signed the Letter of Agreement (LoA) as the document was submitted at the same time as the reorganization of new investment law, and that the LoA would be re-submitted for approval. As the legal framework on fisheries *refugia* is a key element for project implementation, she therefore suggested that this activity should be implemented in continuous basis during the project's duration.

45. The Chief of MFRDMD acknowledged the importance of *refugia* concept for resources conservation and management, and expressed the willingness to cooperate in the implementation of the project. He also encouraged TD to consider including more target species in this project in the future.

Program Thrust IV: Providing Policy and Advisory Services for Planning and Executing Management of Fisheries

(14) Fisheries Resources Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2

46. The Program Committee was informed that the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is scheduled for maintenance and to be equipped with improved devices and gears with financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) during January – June 2018, and to continue the fisheries and environmental survey in the Gulf of Thailand, and in the EEZs of Thailand, Cambodia, and Viet Nam during October – November 2018.

47. The Program Committee Member for Viet Nam expressed the appreciation to TD for the conduct of the survey on pelagic fisheries in 2017 in Viet Nam waters considering that the result of the survey would contribute to the determination of MSY and composition of small pelagic stocks in the country's waters. For the survey proposed in the Gulf of Thailand in 2018 which would involve three countries, namely: Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, she suggested that a consultation should be convened with the concerned countries for consideration of the proposed survey taking into consideration the respective countries' protocols. In this connection, the representative from TD indicated that the consultation among the concerned countries would be convened in early 2018.

48. The Chief of MFRDMD inquired whether the improvement of the facilities onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 also includes the installation of new scientific eco-sounder. In response, the representative from TD explained that the improvement would be mainly on the deck machinery, towing wire, engine, Global Maritime Distress on Safety System (GMDSS), and navigation system. He also expressed the appreciation to Viet Nam for temporarily installing onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 its own scientific echosounder Simrad EK 60 during the survey. However, he added that the use of this equipment needs close cooperation with Vietnamese technical expert for the operation and monitoring of the performance of the equipment.

49. The Program Committee Member for Thailand informed the 40PCM that Thailand is planning to request TD for the use of either the M.V. SEAFDEC or M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the conduct of deep sea fishery resource survey in the Andaman Sea during March – May 2018. The details of such request would be relayed to TD for coordination on the appropriate timing for the utilization of the vessel.

50. The representative from FAO informed the 40PCM on its plan to conduct fishery resource survey in the Bay of Bengal in 2018 using the marine research vessel R.V. DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN. He

suggested that it would be beneficial for SEAFDEC to participate in the planning of the survey, as the results would be useful for the Member Countries of SEAFDEC.

(15) Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia

51. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia sought clarification on the use of “offshore fisheries” in the project title, the project duration which started in 2004, and on the relationship among the different project objectives. In response, the representative from TD explained that this project is implemented to respond to the directive of the SEAFDEC Council during its 44th Meeting for SEAFDEC to conduct collaborative research in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas and accommodating such activity under this project. On the project’s component on fish handling activities, it was clarified that it would be cost-effective to mobilize the research vessel during its operations in the participating Member Countries, to also conduct onboard training on fish handling using technologies, *e.g.* slurry ice.

52. With regards to the inquiry on definition of “offshore fisheries,” it was clarified that there is no common definition for this terminology among the Member Countries. However, the intention of this project is to conduct surveys in the EEZs of the Member Countries outside of the coastal areas.

(16) Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region

53. The 40PCM was informed that the activity to “*facilitate fisheries activity information gathering through introduction of community-based resources management/co-management,*” was started before the establishment of IFRDMD. However, from 2017 onward this activity would be undertaken in close collaboration with IFRDMD.

54. In response to the query of the Program Committee Member for Viet Nam with regards to the proposed activity in 2018, the Committee was informed that the activity was developed based on the request made during the 49th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. After this 40PCM, TD would coordinate with the national focal point to identify the appropriate activities and pilot site.

55. The Program Committee Member for Viet Nam informed the Meeting that after the training activities conducted by TD, the framework for rights-based approach has been incorporated in its national fishery law. She therefore expressed the willingness of Viet Nam to continue the activity under this project with particular focus on rights-based fisheries in line with the current legal framework of Viet Nam.

56. With regard to the activity on “Improving the data collection of the commercially-exploited aquatic and threaten species,” the Program Committee Member for the Philippines expressed the support of the Philippines to the study on stock assessment of sharks and rays considering that several areas of the Philippines have already prohibited the catching, processing and trading of sharks and rays.

57. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia expressed the concern that the activities under this project of TD, *e.g.* capacity building on species identification, and improving data collection on landing of sharks and rays, should not overlap with the project of MFRDMD that also address relevant issues on sharks and rays. In this connection, the representative from TD clarified that while the activities of MFRDMD focused on the biology and species identification of sharks and rays, the activities carried out by TD focus on collection and use of data for stock assessment.

58. Regarding the activity on “Harmonization of fishery statistics in the Southeast Asian region,” the Program Committee Member for the Philippines inquired whether this project also intends to harmonize methodologies for statistics collection among the countries. In response, it was clarified that the aim of this project is to enhance the compilation of statistics through the use of harmonized standards, definition and classification to facilitate submission of statistics from countries.

(17) Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region

59. In order that a regional analysis of the status of purse seine fisheries in the region could be undertaken in 2018, the Member Countries were encouraged to submit the necessary information to MFRDMD by the end of 2017.

60. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia suggested that research on Indian mackerel and short mackerels in Andaman Sea should be undertaken as these are important shared stocks. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC also suggested that since the catch of Indo-Pacific mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand was reported to have reduced significantly during the past few years, this case should also be taken into consideration by this project.

(18) Research for Enhancement of Southeast Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region

61. While taking note of the progress of implementation of the project on “Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region”, the Program Committee Member for Malaysia echoed the suggestion of Indonesia for SEAFDEC to avoid duplication of activities among the projects of TD and MFRDMD that have similar focus, *i.e.* on sharks and rays.

Program Thrust V: Addressing international fisheries related issues from a regional perspective

(19) Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade-related Issues

62. The Program Committee Member for Viet Nam expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for the introduction of eACDS to the stakeholders in Viet Nam in collaboration with the Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, from which the output is positive. She proposed that SEAFDEC could also support Viet Nam in the development of a system to apply the eACDS for marine fishery products. In this connection, the 40PCM was informed that SEAFDEC plans to extend support to Viet Nam on this aspect through the existing JTF from 2017.

63. The Program Committee Member for Brunei Darussalam thanked SEAFDEC and Thailand for their support in the pilot site for testing the application of eACDS in Brunei Darussalam. She also mentioned that the system is very useful considering that the country is promoting more exportation of seafood. She therefore urged SEAFDEC to conduct more practical training sessions for fishers for the effective implementation of the eACDS. On trade-related issues and considering that common positions have been developed by SEAFDEC based on scientific information, she suggested that the SEAFDEC Member Countries should strengthen their linkage with the ASEAN platform on trade in the future.

64. The Program Committee Member for the Philippines congratulated SEAFDEC for the achievement in the development of the eACDS which is very useful for ASEAN Member States (AMSs). While informing the Program Committee that the Philippines has already in place a database for catch documentation, he requested SEAFDEC that the Philippines could also be included in the project’s future activities.

65. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia also congratulated SEAFDEC for implementing the eACDS and requested SEAFDEC to share with Malaysia the results of the pilot testing activities conducted in Brunei Darussalam. She also requested that Malaysia be part of the project on eACDS and proposed that a workshop could be conducted in Malaysia in 2018.

66. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia congratulated SEAFDEC for the progress of the eACDS pilot implementation in Brunei Darussalam, and requested SEAFDEC to organize a workshop on eACDS in Indonesia in 2018.

67. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia expressed the view that trade is very dynamic and its progress is difficult to catch up, and suggested that SEAFDEC should exert efforts to update the synthesis on development of international fish trade once a year, including providing links in SEAFDEC website to information, *e.g.* price, international fish trade profile of the Member Countries. In this regard,

the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat declared that this matter would be discussed among the SEAFDEC Departments especially that this would include information pertaining to the capture fisheries, aquaculture and post-harvest sectors.

68. Considering the importance of information on fisheries trade, the Program Committee Member for Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to develop a platform for sharing of information on trade requirements of importing countries, *e.g.* those of the EU.

69. In responding to the concerns of the 40PCM, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat explained that for the future training and workshop to be conducted in the requesting Member Countries, resource persons from the other AMSs who have experience in dealing with international market issues would be invited in order that the experiences of these other countries with respect to fisheries trade could be shared.

(20) Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries

70. The Program Committee was informed on the cancellation of the joint research and training cruise in areas under the national jurisdiction of Viet Nam, which was originally scheduled to be undertaken in 2017 by the National University of Fisheries (NFU) of Japan. However, the activity would be resumed in 2018 in collaboration with SEAFDEC, the NFU, and the Research Institute of Marine Fisheries of Viet Nam.

Special Projects

(21) Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia

71. The Program Committee Member for Myanmar expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for supporting the activities to promote the establishment of bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand, and requested SEAFDEC to continue to support the bilateral cooperation.

72. Regarding the query of the Program Committee Member for the Philippines on the possibility of establishing MCS network among all AMSs, the Program Committee was informed that this project has been moving step-by-step from the establishment of bilateral, trilateral, sub-regional and regional cooperation among the countries. As countries in the region have already had existing national MCS in place, establishment of the aforementioned cooperation would also help connecting the national MCS into the regional network.

73. The Program Committee Member for Myanmar confirmed the invitation for SEAFDEC to implement the pilot activity on the implementation of eACDS in Myanmar.

74. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat added that the implementation of the eACDS also includes MCS. In this connection, the Secretary-General expressed the appreciation to the SEAFDEC-Sweden project through the Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management (SWaM) for extending support to SEAFDEC in the development of the eACDS.

(22) The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID/Oceans)

75. The Program Committee Member for the Philippines expressed the appreciation to the USAID/Oceans for selecting Philippines as one of the learning sites, and proposed that the activities in 2018 should be expanded to include the aspect on human welfare in Region 7: Negros Oriental. While taking note of the request, the representative from the USAID/Oceans suggested that results from other projects being implemented in the area that also address the issue on human welfare should also be tapped.

76. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia sought clarification with regards to the expansion site in Kelantan, Malaysia, as there is no workplan developed for the site. In response, the representative from the USAID/Oceans clarified that the project has priority focus in the Sulu-Sulawesi region, and

lessons from the learning sites in Philippines and Indonesia would be shared to the other countries in the region. However, for Malaysia the planning meeting scheduled in 2017 would be postponed to early 2018. The representative from the USAID/Oceans also clarified that Malaysia was previously not qualified to receive funding assistance in regards to the project implementation under the eCDT project. However, this restriction has been waived by USAID for Malaysia to receive funding assistance in mid 2017.

77. With regards to the sending of any formal invitation to Myanmar, the Program Committee Member for Myanmar requested the USAID/Oceans to update the names of focal points and not to indicate the specific name in the letter.

78. While expressing the appreciation to USAID/Oceans for the progress of the project implementation in Indonesia, the Program Committee Member for Indonesia requested for an internal meeting between Indonesia and USAID/Oceans in Jakarta to update the status of this project in the learning site in Indonesia.

79. On the development of the Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) system, the Chief of MFRDMD sought confirmation on when the CDT system would be ready for use by the countries. In response, the representative from the USAID/Oceans explained that it is not possible to establish one system containing all data that are workable for all countries due to the differences among the countries, *e.g.* situation on capture fisheries, landing, processing exportation, and the CDT system for each country needs to be developed with precise technical specification. The representative from the USAID/Oceans informed the 40PCM that the Member Countries could develop their own eCDT using the documents that were prepared and distributed by USAID/Oceans which provide all the recommendations and guidelines.

3.1.2 New Project

- **Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia**

80. While noting that there are two projects that focus on catadromous eels, one of which is being supported by JTF and the other by JAIF, the Program Committee Member for Japan inquired whether or not the results of the two projects would be combined upon their completion. In response, it was clarified that the two projects complement each other, therefore, combining the results would provide a better picture of the status of eel resources and deliver more benefits for the region.

81. The Program Committee for the Philippines expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for involving the Philippines in this project considering that catadromous eel is a high-value species of the country. He then requested AQD to assist in extending the technology on breeding and culture of the species. In response, the Chief of AQD indicated that AQD is in the process of refining the developed aquaculture technologies, *e.g.* improving the survival rate of wild-caught juveniles in aquaculture, which would then be transferred to the Member Countries.

3.2 Departmental Programs

82. The Program Committee took note of the progress and achievements of AQD and TD in the implementation of their respective departmental programs in 2017-2018 (Annex 6).

3.2.1 Aquaculture Department

83. The Program Committee took note of the progress and achievements of the Departmental Programs of AQD, namely: 1) Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture; 2) Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture; 3) Adapting to Climate Change; 4) Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture; and 5) Meeting Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture.

84. The Program Committee Member for the Philippines reiterated the support requested by BFAR from AQD in sustaining the verification of single spat oyster culture in areas affected by HABs, and in

addressing the new global human health concern on Antibiotic Microbial Resistance (AMR) in the aquaculture production chain.

85. In response, the Chief of AQD informed the 40PCM that the list of activities proposed by AQD would be adjusted based on the recommendations of the Member Countries and the region's priority. He added that in the upcoming AQD Strategic Planning Meeting in December 2017, stakeholders and relevant agencies in the Philippines would be involved in prioritizing the activities to be undertaken by AQD.

86. With regards to query of the Program Committee Member for Malaysia on the accessibility of information generated from AQD programs, the Chief of AQD explained that the information could be accessed through the AQD website and the SEAFDEC/AQD Institutional Repository. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC added that SEAFDEC is planning to establish a harmonized repository system that could link the repository of individual Departments to facilitate access to SEAFDEC information in the future.

87. The Program Committee Member for Thailand while commending AQD for the results generated from its works for improving aquaculture technologies especially for marine fish species, emphasized the need for capacity building on freshwater aquaculture which is very important for livelihood and food security in the rural areas. He also expressed the willingness of Thailand to share technologies developed for several species to other Member Countries, *e.g.* through training to be organized by SEAFDEC in Thailand, or sending DoF staff from Thailand to other AMSs to share the technologies.

88. While acknowledging the contribution of freshwater aquaculture to the livelihood of people, the representative from MRC reiterated the importance of migratory fish species which are facing the risks from urban development as well as climate change. She encouraged IFRDMD to also put efforts in studying the migration of freshwater species, not only along the mainstream water but also tributary areas.

89. The Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC shared the information to the 40PCM that under the JICA cooperation, TD and AQD are developing cooperation for the conduct of training course on freshwater aquaculture. The course would involve not only trainees from the AMSs but also from the African region. The SEAFDEC Council would be informed on this matter during its forthcoming annual meeting in 2018.

90. The Program Committee for Indonesia, while congratulating AQD for its achievements, expressed the difficulties in monitoring the works undertaken by AQD considering the amount of works undertaken through the years. He suggested that for next year's report at the 41PCM, AQD should develop a map of status of culture of dominant aquatic species in the region, indicating the situation, problems and gaps, proposed activities to address the gaps for the next five years. The matrix of activities, *e.g.* on broodstock management, breeding, food and nutrition, disease, environment, culture, should be mapped with the situation to facilitate monitoring of the progress of the activities.

91. The Chief of AQD informed the Program Committee on the process of AQD in coming up with matrix to identify problems and develop its 5-year strategic plan. This exercise would also be undertaken in the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting of AQD on 12-13 December 2017.

3.2.2 Training Department

92. While taking note of the progress and achievements of the Departmental Programs of TD, namely: 1) Promotion and Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Image; 2) Tailor-made Training Programs; and 3) Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing, the members of the Program Committee provided their recommendations for the improvement of the said programs and activities.

93. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia requested TD to support the conduct of Fishing Gear Specialist Training Program to be held in Malaysia in 2018. In addition, under the project "Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing," she suggested that TD should consider including new area of work on "the marking of fishing gear" as this was raised during the 2nd Sub-regional Technical Consultation between Malaysia and Thailand.

94. The Program Committee Member for Lao PDR requested TD to support the participants from Lao PDR to attend in training course on fishing gear drawing, considering that information on fishing gears is necessary as basis for inland fisheries management.

3.3. Other Programs

3.3.1 Application of Fish Passage Design Principles to Enhance Sustainability of Inland Fishery Resources in the Southeast Asian Region (ACIAR-supported Project)

95. While informing the 40PCM that IFRDMD is planning to implement project on fish passage in Myanmar, the Program Committee Member for Myanmar sought clarification on the relationship between this IFRDMD project and the existing project implemented by TD. In response, the Chief of IFRDMD explained that the TD project was formulated prior to the establishment of IFRDMD.

96. The representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat added that the TD project which is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is intended specifically to develop an experimental fishway model to support the conduct of on-station research under controlled conditions and to come up with data on the ability and behavior of different indigenous freshwater fish species to swim across the fishway. The results of the on-station research would be useful for the development of a fishway model that is appropriate for the region.

IV. PIPELINE PROJECTS AND EMERGING NEEDS FOR PREPARATION OF FUTURE PROJECT PROPOSALS

4.1 Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) and RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMSs

97. The representative from MRC expressed the view that this project would come up with information on fish migratory behavior which is necessary to serve as basis for the development of fish passage to mitigate the problems on habitats fragmentation caused by cross-river obstacles or other development projects.

98. The Program Committee was informed that there have been several mapping activities undertaken in the Lower Mekong Basin in the past, the results of which could be considered and utilized in this project as appropriate.

99. In response to the query of the Program Committee Member for Viet Nam on the monitoring of catch data using GIS and remote sensing technologies, and on the species targeted under this project, the representative from TD explained that the research concept for this project is to link between catch data, some environment parameters with remote sensing by using GIS. If the project would choose a pilot site at Nam Oon Dam, Sakhon Nakhon, Thailand, the project could make use of the catch data from the project “Facilitating Fisheries Activity Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Resource Management and Co-management” conducted since 2014. The detailed work plan for this project would be established by a working group. In close consultation with the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, the area of Sukothai flood plain located in the north of Thailand was proposed as the pilot site. However, the views of the other SEAFDEC Member Countries would also be sought in the planning of the project.

4.2 SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II

100. The Program Committee was informed that this Project is a continuation of the previous Project supported by the EU through the CITES Secretariat, with the aim of supporting the SEAFDEC Member Countries in building their national capacities to report the catch and landing of sharks and rays up to species level as well as to facilitate the development of national shark/ ray NDFs document. It was also confirmed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat would serve as coordinating unit for this project, while the implementation would be undertaken by MFRDMD in cooperation with TD.

101. The Program Committee Member for the Philippines expressed the country's interest to participate in this project considering that catching of all shark and ray species is prohibited in two Philippine provinces, even though there is a lack of substantial population data to support in the localities. In addition, she requested SEAFDEC to provide the methodology used for data collection, while the actual data collection could be done by the country's enumerators.

102. The Program Committee for Malaysia expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for including Malaysia as a participating country in this project and accepted the proposed activities.

V. COOPERATION WITH DONORS, NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5.1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

103. The representative from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (FAO/RAP), *Dr. David Brown* thanked SEAFDEC for the invitation extended to FAO to attend the 40PCM. He congratulated SEAFDEC on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and thanked SEAFDEC for the recognition award presented to FAO. He informed the Program Committee that fisheries and aquaculture have been making a significant contribution to food and nutrition security and livelihoods of millions of people around the world. He then expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for its contribution in the sustainable development of fisheries in the region through the regional cooperation especially in combating IUU fishing, such as the promotion of the PSMA, ACDS, vessel registration; development of capacity for EAFM, among others. He also expressed the hope for the strengthened collaboration between FAO and SEAFDEC in the future, particularly in key areas, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, labor and working conditions, IUU fishing and PSMA, regional cooperation including the BOBLME phase II, Inland Fisheries (IFISH), Inland Fisheries Biodiversity, GEF project in Palembang, Indonesia. He also mentioned that FAO is looking forward to continuing the collaboration with SEAFDEC/AQD on aquaculture related work, *e.g.* AMR and aquaculture feed and feed ingredients, Sustainable Development Goals in particular SDG 14, addressing Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), and the development of GEF 7 projects in the Lower Mekong Basin, Gulf of Thailand. His Statement appears as **Annex 7**.

5.2 Prefectural Inland Fisheries Training Center of Gifu, Japan

104. The representative from the Prefectural Inland Fisheries Training Center of Gifu in Japan, *Mr. Yutaka Nakai*, expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for giving him the opportunity to attend the 40PCM. He provided an overview of the fisheries activities and fisheries/aquaculture production of Gifu Prefecture, and introduced the activities undertaken by the Center under the Fisheries Section, Aquaculture Section, and Ecological Environment Section. He specifically highlighted on the importance of "Ayu of the Nagara River System," as the most important fish species in Gifu Prefecture and this is recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) of FAO. He also explained the training activities plan for 2018, and expressed the hope that the AMSs would be able to participate in these activities with the support of the Center. Nevertheless, the extent of support is still being finalized and would be disseminated later to the AMSs. His presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

105. The Committee Member for Thailand expressed the appreciation to the Gifu Prefecture Government through the SEAFDEC cooperation for supporting the effort of Thailand to develop the advance technology for rainbow trout aquaculture, accepting the fisheries biologists from the DOF of Thailand to be trained in Gifu, providing technical assistance to a freshwater station in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as well as extending training opportunity in Gifu for the AMSs. In this regard, the representative from Gifu Prefecture Government expressed the willingness to further the cooperation with SEAFDEC and the Government of Thailand in the future.

106. With regards to the mechanism for Member Countries to apply for the training course, the 40PCM was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat would serve as the coordinator to collect information on the candidates for training and to communicate the training applicants with Gifu. As for the number of trainees in 2018, this would be confirmed after the budget is finalized.

5.3 Mekong River Commission

107. The representative from the Mekong River Commission (MRC), *Dr. Phattareeya Suanrattanachai* expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for its contribution in strengthening the institutional platforms of the Technical Advisory Body (TAB) on Fisheries for developing and implementing a regional fisheries management and development strategy. She reiterated that the formalization of collaboration between MRC and SEAFDEC through the signing of the MoU on the Promotion of Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Lower Mekong Basin and Southeast Asia in August 2017 would foster the research and development of inland fisheries in the countries bordering the Mekong River Basin. She also mentioned that MRC and SEAFDEC would strengthen two important functions which are on consultancy and human resource management. Specifically, two events are scheduled in December 2017 with the purpose of formulating a project-based action plan for Mekong Basin-wide Fisheries Management Strategy (BFMS) and enhancing capacity on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) for senior fisheries managers. Her Statement appears as **Annex 9**.

5.4 Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

108. The representative from Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), *Dr. Eduardo M. Leaño*, thanked SEAFDEC for the invitation extended to NACA to participate in is 40PCM. He reiterated on the signing of MoU between NACA and SEAFDEC/AQD in May 2016, and expressed the appreciation to the participation of SEAFDEC staff in several important events that addressed different aquaculture issues during the past years, *i.e.* on Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific Region in February 2015; the Regional Consultation on Responsible Production and Use of Feed and Feed Ingredients for Sustainable Growth of Aquaculture in Asia-Pacific in March 2017; the 9th China International Shrimp Industry Development Forum in April 2017; Strengthening Capacities, Policies and National Actions Plans on Prudent and Responsible Use of Antimicrobial in Fisheries in August 2017; and Emergency Regional Consultation for Prevention and Management of Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) in the Asia-Pacific in September 2017. In addition, NACA also participated in the ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on EMS/AHPND and Other Transboundary Diseases which was recently organized by AQD. He also reiterated that NACA and SEAFDEC will continue to collaborate and explore opportunities to implement projects toward sustainability and further development of aquaculture industry in the region. His Statement appears as **Annex 10**.

5.5 Government of Sweden

109. The representative from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, Thailand, *Ms. Louise Herrmann* congratulated SEAFDEC and the Member Countries for their efforts to implement the activities and results achieved in 2017. She also appreciated the recognition award given by SEAFDEC to the Government of Sweden on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC. In line with the support from Sweden, she highlighted the key achievements on the regional collaboration including the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)-Neritic Tunas and the RPOA-Fishing Capacity which was endorsed by the ASEAN High Policy Levels. Furthermore, she also recognized the long-term partnership between Sweden and SEAFDEC, and other partners, *e.g.* the cooperation with FAO on the regional approach to the implementation of the FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines including the principles of human rights and gender equity; the cooperation with ILO on principles for good labor practices in fisheries; and the cooperation with JTF, FAO, and USAID on the implementation of PSM, ACDS, and traceability schemes. Her Statement appears as **Annex 11**.

110. The Program Committee Member for Thailand expressed the appreciation to the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project for supporting the conduct of Sub-regional Consultative Workshop of the Northern Andaman Sea/Myeik Archipelago, which helps in increasing the effectiveness of several collaborative projects implemented by Thailand in Myanmar. He also expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for its continued effort under the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project to support regional collaborative programs, and the national efforts in addressing fisheries management, and the management of fishing capacity in the region.

5.6 USAID/Regional Development Mission for Asia

111. The representative from the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), *Ms. Cristina Velez Srivanasan* thanked SEAFDEC and its Member Countries for the opportunity to participate to 40PCM. She also extended her gratitude to the Government of Thailand for its hospitality and leadership in hosting this important meeting and to the Japanese Trust Fund, Government of Sweden, FAO and the Global Environment Facility for ongoing collaboration and support for the USAID/Oceans and Fisheries Partnership. She is convinced that there is a great need to manage the fisheries of Southeast Asia urgently and immediately. With USAID/Oceans' efforts, the development of traceability solutions can represent key elements to reducing IUU fishing and improving fisheries management. She further informed the Meeting on the great progress made during last two years, i.e. development of three regional sustainable fisheries management plans for Sulu Sulawesi Seas, the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, expansion of the dialogue on catch documentation and traceability including developing technical standards, identifying key data elements and creating common definitions to facilitate information capture, development of national relevant CDT solutions. Furthermore, the awareness and mobilized support have also been expanded to prioritize gender equality and fair labor concerns. She stated that USAID recognizes SEAFDEC for its outstanding leadership and greatly contributes to the progress and success of the project. The USA Government is committed to work on removing IUU fishing from supply chains through the new U.S. Seafood Import Monitoring Program. Meanwhile, NOAA as supported by USAID will continue to engage in building capacity to respond this new rule, as well as on the Port State Measures Agreement. She also added that USAID would engage with CTI-CFF, RFMOs, FAO and others to synergize efforts. Through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC platform, implementing of CDT model will be applied and adapted to the varying needs across the region. Lastly, USAID looks forward to deeper engagement and collaboration with SEAFDEC in the future. Her Statement appears as **Annex 12**.

112. The Secretary-General expressed the appreciation to the collaboration extended by USAID starting with the project on Oceans and Fisheries Partnership, which has later on been expanded to other initiatives of US agencies such as those of the Department of Interior and NOAA. SEAFDEC therefore look forward to having enhanced cooperation with USAID in the future.

VI. OTHER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT MATTERS (Closed Session)

6.1 Adopted Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030

113. The Program Committee noted the adopted Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030 (RES2017), which was adopted at the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on 15 November 2017 (**Annex 13**). In this connection, the Program Committee Member for Indonesia urged that SEAFDEC should start to harmonize the programs according to the Resolution.

114. While seeking the advice from the Program Committee on the next step in order to align the SEAFDEC programs and projects with the new six (6) strategies after the adoption of the RES2017, it was suggested the activities should be matched or adjusted like that of the Program Framework adopted in 2009. Nevertheless, the Program Committee Member for Viet Nam emphasized that the proposed alignment would be presented to the Council Meeting for their consideration and directive.

115. The Program Committee Member for Myanmar suggested that the adjustment of activities to the new strategies should consider matching the suitable group, however, it should reflect the current situation and support the new six strategies.

116. In this respect, the 40PCM took note that the proposal will be submitted to Council Meeting in 2018.

6.2 Alignment of the Programs and Activities of SEAFDEC Department

117. After the presentation of the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat on the background of the programs of work, the Program Committee for Myanmar encouraged TD and MFRDMD as well as the other Departments to work together closely especially in the alignment of the scope of works for effective

project implementation. He added that the program of works should be aligned with the requirements and/or request of the Member Countries, *e.g.* inland aquaculture with the support of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand.

118. While congratulating the SEAFDEC Secretariat for coming up with very comprehensive listing of the past projects, the Program Committee Member for Singapore observed that some projects are quite similar in scope that have been repeated. He therefore suggested that in formulating a new project, a review of the past projects of similar nature should be undertaken to optimize the resources.

119. In order to minimize the overlapping of the scopes of works among SEAFDEC Departments, the Program Committee Member for Indonesia suggested that SEAFDEC Secretariat should take the lead role on cross-cutting issues while each Department will be responsible for their functions as approved by the SEAFDEC Council. Moreover, based on the suggestion of the Program Committee Member for Indonesia, the 40PCM agreed that the current projects would be maintained and continued as approved to avoid encountering any difficulties. The alignment of projects would be started with the new projects including JTF-7.

120. The 40PCM noted that the alignment of programs and activities of SEAFDEC Departments would be discussed during the forthcoming Department Chiefs' Meeting. Results of the discussion would be submitted for consideration of the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council as necessary.

VII. OTHER MATTERS (Closed Session)

7.1 Japanese Trust Fund-7 Framework

121. The Program Committee took note of the draft Japanese Trust Fund 7 (JTF-7) Framework together with project proposals developed by the Secretariat and Departments (**Annex 14**). The Program Committee noted that a new JTF-7 will start in 2020 with the duration of approximately 5 years. In order to request for approval for this new JTF-7, SEAFDEC needs to submit the documents for consideration by the Government of Japan in December 2017.

122. In response to the query of the Program Committee Member for Singapore on the harmonization of statistics standards under the project on Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fisheries Statistics and Information, the Committee was informed that this is in relation to the modification of standard classification of fishery statistics which is expected to be adopted by FAO in 2019, and used as new framework for countries to submit statistics for compilation at global and regional levels in the future.

123. With regard to the project on "Market Measures for Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region", the Program Committee was informed that this project was initially developed under JTF-6 which focused on the establishment and implementation of the guidelines to prevent entry of IUU fish and fishery products, but this phase of the project will focus on strengthening the efforts to combat IUU fishing and develop a non-IUU labeling for fish and fishery products in the region.

124. The Program Committee also took note that TD would continue the Project on "Responsible Technology and Practice for Sustainable Fisheries". However, this project should be placed under the Component of Pillar 2: Conservation and management of aquaculture resources and ecosystem.

125. The Program Committee Member for Malaysia proposed two more activities under this project. The first activity is on the extension of Information System on Fish Stock Management (MFRIS) that would integrate all fishery survey data in one database to other Member Countries; while the second activity is on minimizing the pre- and post-harvest losses and wastes along the supply chain in capture fisheries and aquaculture (inland and marine) which is complementing the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Post-harvest Practices and Trade. Considering that the JTF-7 and all corresponding projects have already been discussed and finalized, the proposed activities of Malaysia should be informed to the Japanese Government separately.

126. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia requested SEAFDEC to study the situation of inland fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, and identify the species that could disappear from our waters in the next five years. The study could form a basis for management options to conserve these disappearing species in the region.

127. The Program Committee Member for Japan explained that as the process to request budget for JTF-7 has not been started, it is not possible to confirm the budget at this stage that cover all the proposed activities. However, Japan took note of the request and expressed intention to make effort to acquire budget that meet the needs indicated proposal. The Program Committee was also informed that the Fisheries Agency of Japan received comments from the Ministry of Finance that there are too many project items under the current JTF. Although Japan understands that there are several important activities for the region, but in terms of preparation of the request for budget allocation, the structure of the proposal for the JTF-7 should be simple. In response, it was clarified that the number of projects should be maintained despite additional request of Malaysia.

128. The Program Committee Member for Indonesia expressed the view that follow-up actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to directive of the SEAFDEC Council should be reported at the SEAFDEC Program Committee, FCG/ASSP, and SEAFDEC Council Meetings.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORTIETH MEETING OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

8.1 Adoption of Report of the Meeting

129. The Program Committee adopted the recommendations of its Fortieth Meeting on 29 November 2017. The Program Committee noted that the Report would be submitted to the 50th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and to the ASEAN through the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).

8.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-first Meeting of the Program Committee

130. In considering the date and venue of the Fortieth Meeting of the Program Committee, the Chief of Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) informed the Program Committee that MFRDMD would host the Forty-first Meeting in Malaysia. He also informed the Program Committee that MFRDMD would seek the guidance of the Secretariat in finalizing the schedule and related arrangements for the Meeting.

IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

131. In his Closing Remarks, the Chairperson of the Program Committee expressed sincere appreciation to the Program Committee Members, representatives of the collaborating organizations, SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, as well as observers for imparting their wisdom in dealing with SEAFDEC programs and significant issues and for their support that made the 40PCM attain its objectives. After expressing the gratitude to MFRD and the Meeting Secretariat for their meticulous efforts to make this Meeting successful, he then declared the Fortieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee closed. His closing address appears as **Annex 15**.