



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FORTIETH MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Fortieth Meeting of the Program Committee 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). The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, in his capacity as the Chairperson of SEAFDEC Program Committee, chaired the Meeting which reviewed the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2017 and scrutinized the programs to be implemented in 2018 to ensure that these have been formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. The list of SEAFDEC Programs and Activities under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism for 2017-2018 appears as *Appendix 1*.

The Meeting discussed the progress and achievements made by SEAFDEC in the implementation of the **Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism** in 2017, which comprise twenty-three (23) projects, 20 of which have been categorized under five Program Thrusts: 1) Developing and promoting responsible fisheries for poverty alleviation and food security; 2) Enhancing capacity and competitiveness to facilitate international and intra-regional trade; 3) Improving management concepts and approached for sustainable fisheries; 4) Providing policy and advisory services for planning and executing management of fisheries; and 5) Addressing international fisheries-related issues from a regional perspective; two (2) under the “Special Projects”; and one (1) under “New Project”. During the discussion, SEAFDEC was asked to develop KPIs for all its projects to facilitate project evaluation by the Program Committee in the future, and after the deliberations, the Program Committee approved the implementation of the programs, and asked SEAFDEC to take into consideration their recommendations as summarized below:

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

- 1. Human Resources Development (HRD) for Sustainable Fisheries**
 - TD to share with other Member Countries, the lessons learnt from the implementation of the project in pilot sites in Myanmar
 - TD to conduct an evaluation of the project to ensure that its intended objective has been achieved, *e.g.* improved skills of fisheries officials, increased incomes of fishers
 - TD to expand the project activities after 2018 to include training on EAFM and mobilize the expertise of Malaysia during the training
- 2. Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities**
 - TD to conduct follow-up activities after the implementation of training under this project
 - TD to share the technologies developed under this project with the Member Countries to serve as basis for the development of the respective countries’ national standards on energy optimization and safety at sea
- 3. Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia**
 - TD to coordinate with Malaysia in the conduct of a research to compare the efficiency of Fish Aggregated Devices (FADs), Fish Enhancing Devices (FEDs), and Artificial Reefs (ARs)
 - TD to address the requirements of Lao PDR in 2018 through the relevant activities of SEAFDEC
 - TD to involve AQD in the implementation of this project, and invite AQD to attend the Meeting on Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia in January 2018
- 4. Environment-friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources**

- AQD to collaborate with BFAR for the promotion of environment-friendly aquaculture technologies, including the transfer of such technologies to the private sector in the Philippines
- AQD to consider refocusing its activities on the aquaculture of *Penaeus monodon* as this is an endemic species to the Philippines, and establish cooperation with BFAR on this aspect through an MOU between AQD and BFAR
- AQD to share with Singapore, the technologies developed through this project particularly on the aquaculture of high-value species
- AQD to involve Malaysian researchers in its research activities on breeding and hatchery seed production of aquaculture species that AQD has been working on, and extend the invitation for Malaysian technical officers to attend the project's 37-day training course

5. Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia

- IFRDMD to disclose the data generated through this project to the Member Countries after the Assessment Committee Meeting and Regional Committee Meeting to be conducted by IFRDMD in December 2017 and January 2018, respectively
- IFRDMD to come up with the recommendations on the conservation measures for anguillid eels in Myanmar

6. Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia

- IFRDMD to collaborate closely with Myanmar in the implementation of inland fisheries management, and explore the possibility of utilizing its digital library that contains results of research activities on inland fisheries of Myanmar
- IFRDMD to continue developing the standards for data collection of inland fisheries, as well as to consider including under this project the issues on invasive alien species and on determining the carrying capacity of inland water bodies

7. Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

- MFRDMD to consider establishing a link with the ASEAN Commodity Working Group in order to seek funding support for the implementation of the next phase of this project
- MFRDMD to involve the countries that are not participating in this project in the implementation of the new JTF-7 project that will be proposed with features that are similar with this project

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

8. Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia - Biotoxins (ASP, AZA and BTX) and Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) in the ASEAN region

- MFRD to continue following-up with the Philippines and Viet Nam for them to submit the quarterly progress reports of their respective biotoxin monitoring surveys

9. Cold Chain Management of Seafood

- MFRD to disseminate the Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood once the Guidelines has been finalized and published

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

- AQD to consider implementing research on Tilapia Lake Virus under this project; conducting risk assessment of known shrimp diseases across the AMSs; and organizing capacity building activities on animal health epidemiology as a core discipline in disease management

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

11. Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities

- TD to focus its activities under this project, on the implementation of PSM starting from designated ports, development of mechanism to tackle the issues on transferring raw materials

- in/out/among countries the region, and development of a database to facilitate across-checking of information from logbook to enhance product traceability.
 - TD to coordinate and mobilize the lessons of Thailand on the improvement of traceability system for combating IUU fishing, *e.g.* VMS, Port-In Port-Out Control (PIPO) Center, Catch Documentation
 - TD to continue working closely with FAO in supporting the Member Countries for the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
 - TD to also involve related agencies other than the Department of Fisheries when conducting the on-site training in Myanmar
- 12. Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products**
- The progress and achievements in the implementation of this project were noted
- 13. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
- TD to continue updating on the status of the resubmission of the Letter of Agreement for approval by Viet Nam, and implementing the activities on fisheries *refugia* in Viet Nam
 - TD to involve MFRDMD in the implementation of this project, and consider including more target species under this project in the future

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

- 14. Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2**
- TD to coordinate and consult with Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam on the planned fisheries and environmental survey in the Gulf of Thailand scheduled in October-November 2018
 - TD to coordinate with Thailand on the appropriate timing for the utilization of either the M.V. SEAFDEC or M. V. SEAFDEC 2 for the conduct of deep sea fishery resource survey in the Andaman Sea in 2018
- 15. Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia**
- The progress and achievements in the implementation of this project were noted
- 16. Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
- TD to coordinate with the national focal point of Viet Nam for identifying the appropriate activities for the portion on “facilitate fisheries activity information gathering through introduction of community-based resources management/co-management” which should focus on rights-based fisheries, as well as the corresponding pilot site
- 17. Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
- Member Countries to submit information relevant to the status of purse seine fisheries in their respective countries to MFRDMD for regional analysis
 - MFRDMD to consider incorporating under this project, the study on important shared stocks of the region, *e.g.* Indian mackerels and short mackerels in the Andaman Sea, and Indo-mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand
- 18. Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Regions**
- TD and MFRDMD to avoid duplication of activities in their respective projects that focus on sharks and rays

Program Thrust V: Addressing International Fisheries-related Issues from a Regional Perspective

- 19. Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade-related Issues**

- SEAFDEC to support Viet Nam in developing a system to apply the eACDS for marine fishery products through the existing JTF from 2017
- SEAFDEC to organize more practical training sessions for fishers on the effective implementation of the eACDS
- SEAFDEC Member Countries to strengthen their linkage with the ASEAN platform on trade in the future
- SEAFDEC to consider including the Philippines in the project's future activities
- SEAFDEC to consider sharing the results of the pilot testing activities conducted in Brunei Darussalam with Malaysia, include Malaysia as part of the project on eACDS, and to conduct a workshop in Malaysia in 2018
- SEAFDEC to update its synthesis of the development of international fish trade once a year, including providing links to relevant information in the SEAFDEC website, *e.g.* price, international fish trade profile of the Member Countries
- SEAFDEC to develop a platform for sharing of information on trade requirements of importing countries, *e.g.* those of the EU

20. Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries

- The Program Committee took note of the information that the joint research and training cruise scheduled to be undertaken by the National University of Fisheries (NFU) of Japan in Viet Nam in 2017 had been cancelled, and that the said activity would be resumed in 2018

Special Project

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

- SEAFDEC to continue supporting the activities on promoting bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand
- SEAFDEC to continue promoting bilateral, trilateral, sub-regional, and regional cooperation among the countries with a view of connecting the national MCS of respective countries into the regional network

22. USAID-SEAFDEC “Oceans and Fisheries Partnership”

- The Program Committee noted that the USAID/Oceans would attend the internal meeting between Indonesia and USAID/Oceans in Jakarta, and would provide the update on the status of this project in the learning site in Indonesia

New Project (starting in 2017)

23. Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia

- SEAFDEC to combine the results of the two projects that focus on catadromous eels upon their completion, one of which is being supported by JTF and the other by JAIF, to provide a better picture of the status of eel resources
- AQD to consider extending to the Member Countries, the technology on breeding and culture of this species

The Program Committee also endorsed **Departmental Programs** proposed for 2018 which comprise eight continuing programs from 2017, five of are implemented by AQD, namely: 1) Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture; 2) Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture; 3) Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture; 4) Adapting to Climate Change; and 5) Meeting Socio Economic Challenges in Aquaculture, and three by TD, namely: 1) Promotion on Strengthening SEAFDEC Visibility and Image; 2) Tailor-made Training Program; and 3) Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of Impacts from Fishing. The Program Committee provided recommendations on these programs, summarized as follows:

1. Aquaculture Department

- AQD to collaborate with BFAR on the verification of single spat oyster culture in areas affected by harmful algal blooms (HABs), and in addressing the new global human health concern on Antibiotic Microbial Resistance (AMR) in the aquaculture production chain
- AQD to continue enhancing the accessibility of information emanating from its programs through the AQD website and the SEAFDEC/AQD Institutional Repository
- AQD to coordinate with Thailand in mobilizing the technologies developed for several species to enhance the capacity of the other Member Countries, *e.g.* through training to be organized by SEAFDEC in Thailand or sending of DOF staff to other AMSs to share the technologies
- IFRDMD to put efforts in studying the migration of freshwater species, not only along the mainstream water but also in tributary rivers or streams
- AQD to develop a map of the status of culture of dominant aquatic species in the region, indicating the situation, problems and gaps, and the proposed activities to address the gaps for the next five years, in order to facilitate monitoring of the works undertaken by AQD

2. Training Department

- TD to support Malaysia in the conduct of Fishing Gear Specialist Training Program to be held in Malaysia in 2018, and to consider including a new area of work on the “marking of fishing gear” in its program
- TD to support the participation of Lao PDR in the training course on fishing gear drawing

The Program Committee also considered and noted the progress of one (1) **Other Program** on **Application of Fish Passage Design Principles to Enhance Sustainability of Inland Fishery Resources in the Southeast Asian Region**.

The Program Committee took note of the status of the two (2) **Pipeline Projects**, and provided recommendations as follows:

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

- TD to seek the views of the other SEAFDEC Member Countries in the planning of the project

2. SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II

- SEAFDEC to consider involving the Philippines in the project; and to provide the methodology for data collection to be used by the country’s enumerators in collecting the actual data

The Program Committee noted the strengthened cooperation between SEAFDEC and non-member governments and international/regional organizations, namely: the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (FAO/RAP), the Prefectural Inland Fisheries Training Center of Gifu in Japan, Mekong River Commission (MRC), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Government of Sweden, and the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA).

The Program Committee took note of the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC Vision, Mission and Strategies Towards 2030”, which was adopted at the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on 15 November 2017. With regards to the alignment of the SEAFDEC Programs and projects with the new six (6) strategies under the Resolution, the Program Committee suggested that the activities should be matched or adjusted like that of the Program Framework adopted in 2009; nevertheless, the proposed alignment should be presented to the Council Meeting for their consideration and directive.

With regards to the “Alignment of the Program and Activities of SEAFDEC Departments”, the Program Committee agreed that the current projects would be maintained and continued as approved to avoid encountering any difficulties; and the alignment of the projects would be started with the new projects including those under the JTF-7.

On the “**Japanese Trust Fund-7 Framework**”, the Program Committee Member for Malaysia proposed that two more activities be considered, namely: extension of the Information System on Fish Stock Management (MFRIS), and Minimizing the Pre- and Post-harvest Losses and Wasted along the Supply Chain in Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture. Furthermore, SEAFDEC was requested to study the situation of inland fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, and identify the species that could disappear from the waters of the region.

The Program Committee adopted the **Report of the 40th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee** for submission to the 50th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and to the ASEAN through the 20th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).

PROJECTS UNDER THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP) MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2017-2018

I. Program of Activities under FCG/ASSP Mechanism

Existing Programs

Program Thrust/Project Title	Lead Department	2017	2018
Thrust I: Developing and Promoting Responsible Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation & Food Security			
1. Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries	TD	Y	Y
2. Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities	TD	Y	Y
3. Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
4. Environment-friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources	AQD	Y	Y
5. Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	IFRDMD	Y	Y
6. Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia	IFRDMD	Y	Y
7. Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management	MFRDMD	Y	N
Thrust II: Enhancing Capacity & Competitiveness to Facilitate International and Intra-regional Trade			
8. Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia – Biotoxins (ASP, AZA, and BTX) and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the ASEAN Region	MFRD	Y	Y
9. Cold Chain Management for Seafood	MFRD	Y	Y
10. Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management and the Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region	AQD	Y	Y
Thrust III: Improving Management Concepts and Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries			
11. Promotion of Counter Measures to Reduce IUU fishing activities	TD	Y	Y
12. Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products	MFRDMD	Y	Y
13. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	Y	Y
Thrust IV: Providing Policy & Advisory Services for Planning & Executing Management of Fisheries			
14. Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y
15. Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
16. Enhancing the compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region	TD/SEC	Y	Y
17. Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
18. Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
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	SEC	Y	Y
20. Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries	SEC	Y	Y

Special Project

Program Thrust/ Project Title	Lead Department	Period
21. Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia	SEC	2013-2017
22. The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans)	SEC	2015-2019

New Projects

Program Thrust/ Project Title	Lead Department	Period
23. Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	SEC/TD	2017-2018

II. Departmental Programs

Project Title	Department	2017	2018
1. Quality seed for sustainable aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
2. Healthy and wholesome aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
3. Maintaining environmental integrity through responsible aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
4. Adapting to climate change impacts	AQD	Y	Y
5. Meeting social and economic challenges in aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
6. Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Image	TD	Y	Y
7. Tailor-made Training Programs	TD	Y	Y
8. Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing	TD	Y	Y

III. Other Programs

Project Title	Department	2017	2018
1. Application of Fish Passage Design Principles to Enhance Sustainability of Inland Fishery Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	TD	Y	N

IV. Pipeline Projects and Emerging Needs for Preparation of Future Project Proposals

Project Title	Lead Department	Period
1. Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) and RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMSs	SEC	1-year
2. SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II	SEC	1-year (March 18- March 19)

Y = Program/project implemented during the year

N = Program/project not implemented during the year