



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF FISHERIES  
CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
(FCG/ASSP)**

1. The Twentieth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (20FCG/ASSP) was convened in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 November to 1 December 2017, and was co-chaired by the representative from Singapore as the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. Attended by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, and the SEAFDEC officials led by the Secretary-General, the 20FCG/ASSP discussed the programs and activities implemented by SEAFDEC in 2017 and those proposed for 2018 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism as endorsed by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its Fortieth Meeting (40PCM) in November 2017, the progress of the other proposals implemented under the ASSP Framework, as well as the policy considerations on issues of importance to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

2. On the “**Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Nineteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)**,” the 20FCG/ASSP discussed the actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council at its 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting and the FCG/ASSP at its 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Regarding the recommendations of the 19FCG/ASSP for SEAFDEC to conduct a regional review of the national laws and regulations of the AMSs to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), SEAFDEC should focus on the identification of the legislative gaps in combating IUU fishing which the AMSs could refer to should they decide to implement their respective legal reviews. On the anguillid eel surveys, SEAFDEC was requested to disseminate the results of the surveys to the AMSs whenever possible. SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue undertaking the necessary actions to address the concerns of the AMSs and report the results of such follow-up actions to the next meeting of the FCG/ASSP.

3. For the “**Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given by the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2017**,” the 20FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN bodies related to fisheries, particularly the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (25ASWGF<sub>i</sub>), the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM 38AMAF), the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (PREP-SOM 39AMAF), and the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (39AMAF). On the progress of development of the ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy (ACFP), the 20FCG/ASSP was also informed that there was no consensus at the Special SOM-38<sup>th</sup> AMAF on the proposal to form an Ad-hoc Task Force to conduct a study on the need to develop the ACFP, but the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> was tasked by the SOM-AMAF to work on the issues and to revise the draft of TOR of the Ad-hoc Task Force during the 26<sup>th</sup> ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting. SEAFDEC was then asked by the 20FCG/ASSP to consider supporting the technical aspects of the proposed ACFP if requested.

4. Regarding the “**FCG/ASSP Programs for the Year 2017-2018**,” the 20FCG/ASSP endorsed the progress and achievements of twenty-three (23) projects implemented under the FCG/ASSP in 2017 and the programs of activities for 2018, of which twenty (20) have been categorized under five “Program Trusts,” two (2) under “Special Projects,” and one (1) under the “New Project.” Once funding could be secured for the two pipeline projects, namely: 1) Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS and Remote Sensing Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

at AMSs; and 2) SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II, SEAFDEC should put these into the FCG/ASSP mechanism so that their implementation could commence.

5. The 20FCG/ASSP noted the “**Progress of SEAFDEC-Related Activities/Proposals under ASEAN Related Bodies**” and provided the following recommendations:

- **ASEAN Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS)**
  - Considering that AHSCCC-FS is a cross-sectoral mechanism under the AMAF, fisheries issues that need the consideration of the AHSCCC-FS should be raised during the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting and for the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Chair to convey such issues to the AHSCCC-FS.
- **ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)**
  - The results of the 9<sup>th</sup> AFCF Meeting held in 2017 were noted.
- **ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)**
  - The progress of the ASA, including the outcomes from the 7<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting held in 2017 and the plan to conduct the 8<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting in March 2018 were noted.
  - The proposed agenda of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting on “Establishment on Recognition of ASEAN Logo for Shrimp Production”; the concern on “Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP)”; and the progress of the proposal on “Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia,” were also noted.

6. On the “**Policy Consideration on International Fisheries-related Issues**,” the 20FCG/ASSP provided the following recommendations:

- **CITES Issues**
  - The ASEAN Secretariat should be represented during the workshop to be organized by IFRDMD in collaboration with FAO related to the preparation of proposals for the upcoming CITES-CoP18.
  - The understanding among the AMSs on the development of CITES common positions on aquatic species should be enhanced prior to the CITES-CoP forum to ensure that votes for the common position would be unified and empowered.
  - In relation to the results of the discussion at the 25<sup>th</sup> ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting which included a request for the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement through ASEAN Secretariat to consider extending the invitation to ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Focal Points during the meeting of AWG-CITES and Wildlife Enforcement, the AMSs should strengthen their inter-agency collaboration between national fisheries agencies and CITES authorities.
- **Combating IUU Fishing**
  - For the “*Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain*” where SEAFDEC would provide the funds for translating the Guidelines to national languages of the AMSs, SEAFDEC should consider supporting the development of a system for the promotion of the Guidelines to the different segments of the value chain.

- On the “*Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over*,” Myanmar should update the SEAFDEC Training Department on the official nomination of its national focal point, and the Philippines to provide the necessary data for the RFVR.
- Under the “*ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme*,” the progress on improving the traceability of marine capture fishery products through the application of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) in the AMSs, as well as the key data elements for developing the electronic form of the ACDS or eACDS were noted.
- On the “*Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures*,” SEAFDEC should consider establishing a network among the AMSs and strengthening the regional cooperation for sharing of relevant information, e.g. list of carrier vessels.
- On the progress in the “*Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity*” including the results from the Stock and Risk Assessment of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asia that came up with recommendations on the appropriate MSY level for longtail tuna and kawakawa in the Indian Ocean, South China Sea and Pacific Ocean, and suggestions on the appropriate TAC for the management of these species, the management of tunas should be under the purview of relevant RFMOs and that SEAFDEC should not duplicate the efforts of the RFMOs.
- **Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region**
  - Regarding the implementation of “*Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region*” by SEAFDEC, the ASEAN Secretariat viewed that the establishment of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas as a new subsidiary body under ASWGFi would face approval difficulties since the ASEAN has recently completed the streamlining process of all working groups under SOM-AMAF/AMAF, and that there is already an existing ASEAN Tuna Working Group under the ASEAN Joint Committee on Agricultural and Forest Product Promotion Scheme.
  - The progress on the “*Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia*” was noted.
  - The progress on the establishment of an “*Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response System*,” and the proposal to conduct an ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation in June 2018 in Thailand which is currently awaiting approval for funding support from the JAIF, were noted.
  - The progress in establishing the “*Regional Database of Alternative Ingredients in Aquaculture*” was noted.
  - On the “*Regional Approaches for the Implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*,” the development of a Policy Brief on Applying Human Rights-based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia was noted.
- **Other Emerging Issues**
  - The 20FCG/ASSP took note of the summary report of the Ocean Conference and the involvement of SEAFDEC in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

7. With regards to “*Management Strategies and Measures for Purse Seine Fishery in the South China Sea*” under “**Other Matters,**” and the request of MFRDMD for project participating countries to provide data and information on purse seine fisheries in order to come up with a regional synthesis, MFRDMD should also obtain secondary data from various sources for the development of the proposed management measures since many countries have encountered difficulties in collecting the necessary information specifically on purse seine fisheries.

8. The Report of the 20FCG/ASSP was adopted on 1 December 2017.