



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE FISHERIES
CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP**

1. The Twenty-first Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or 21FCG/ASSP was convened in Langkawi, Malaysia from 8 to 9 November 2018 and was co-chaired by the representative from Thailand on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. Attended by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, and SEAFDEC Officials led by the Secretary-General, the 21FCG/ASSP discussed the programs and activities implemented by SEAFDEC in 2018 and those proposed for 2019 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism as endorsed by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its Forty-first Meeting (41PCM) in November 2018, the progress of 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. Regarding the “**Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fiftieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twentieth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)**,” the 21FCG/ASSP discussed the actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council at its 50th Meeting and the FCG/ASSP at its 20th Meeting. On the need for SEAFDEC to negotiate with the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the inclusion of the results of discussions on fisheries issues during the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), it was noted that the FCG mechanism is already in place for discussions on fisheries related issues between SEAFDEC and ASEAN which are reported to the SOM-AMAF through ASWGF_i. On the procedure for SEAFDEC to participate in the SOM-AMAF in case there are important issues to be raised, SEAFDEC should communicate with the ASEAN Secretariat requesting permission to attend the SOM-AMAF meeting and indicate the issues to be presented and discussed. With regards to the process of developing the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), an *ad hoc* Task Force to Conduct the Feasibility Study on the Development of the AGFP including its Terms of Reference has already been agreed. Although SEAFDEC is not included in the Task Force, SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations could still be invited to attend the discussions if necessary.

3. On the “**Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at Meetings of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries in 2018**,” the 21FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, particularly the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (26ASWGF_i), the Special Senior Official Meeting of the 39th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM 39AMAF), the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting of the Fortieth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (PREP-SOM 40AMAF), and the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (40AMAF). Regarding the Policy Brief “Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia,” the 21FCG/ASSP noted the suggestion made during the SSOM 39AMAF to have the title of this document changed considering the sensitivity of the issue on human rights; and that the Prep-SOM 40AMAF tasked the ASWGF_i to review the Policy Brief and submit a proposed revised title to the SOM-AMAF for consideration. This matter would be discussed at the ASWGF_i Meeting in 2019.

4. For the “**FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2018-2019**,” the 21FCG/ASSP was informed on the FCG/ASSP projects which were reviewed by the 41PCM, comprising twenty-three (23) projects that have been categorized under the SEAFDEC Strategies, and two (2) Special

Projects, as well as the recommendations made during the 41PCM. It was noted that two (2) projects were completed in 2018, while 22 projects would be continued in 2019, and one new project will be implemented starting in 2019. Moreover, two (2) Pipeline Projects, namely: 1) Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region; and 2) Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resource Management, were also noted

5. The 21FCG/ASSP noted the “**Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Fisheries Related Bodies**” and provided the following recommendations:

- **ASEAN Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the results of the Sixth and Seventh Meetings of the ASEAN Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS) held in 2018.
- **ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP noted the results of the Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) held in 2018.
- **ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of activities of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), including the results of the 8th ASA Meeting held in 2018, and the plan to conduct the 9th ASA Meeting in 2019. The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that Viet Nam would discuss with Thailand regarding the timing and arrangement of the next ASA Meeting which was proposed to be held back-to-back with the ASWGF and AFCF Meetings.

6. With regards to the “**Policy Consideration on International Fisheries-related Issues,**” the 21FCG/ASSP provided the following recommendations:

- **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*” particularly on the results of the self-evaluation of the extent of implementation of the Guidelines by the respective countries, SEAFDEC should consider engaging independent assessors which could ensure the transparency of the evaluation process, and could also properly guide the AMSs on the aspects of the Guidelines that should be considered and implemented.
 - On the “*Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over,*” the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that SEAFDEC has developed a draft Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System, which is in the final process of submission to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration *ad referendum*. To enhance the utilization of the RFVR Database, the FCG/ASSP expressed the view that the objective of the Database should be clarified, *e.g.* to be able to confirm that fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database are considered illegal fishing vessels, then the RFVR would be useful to support the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).
 - On the “*ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS),*” the 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the electronic system of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) which is being pilot tested in Brunei Darussalam, and expansion to pilot sites in Viet Nam and Myanmar. The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that there are two traceability systems, *i.e.*

the eACDS developed by SEAFDEC and the Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) developed by the USAID Oceans. Both systems were developed based on the same fundamental principles of the ACDS concept, but with different focus.

- With regards to the “*Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures*,” while agreeing that the works of SEAFDEC on Port State Measures do not duplicate with those of FAO, the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that a network comprising focal points from the AMSs should be established to fast track the communication between and among countries to support the PSM implementation, and supported the plan of SEAFDEC to continue organizing the training for inspectors to support the implementation of the PSMA in the future.
- On the “*Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)*,” the 21FCG/ASSP requested the countries that have not yet responded to the questionnaires on the progress made in the implementation of RPOA-Capacity, to send their accomplished questionnaires back to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by December 2018 in order that the results could be analyzed and reported to the forthcoming ASWGFi Meeting.

- **Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region**

- Regarding the “*Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (RPOA-Neritic Tunas)*,” the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that SEAFDEC could continue providing support to the AMSs to improve their capacity in managing their tuna resources, and to convey the results of their works to the relevant RFMOs. As for the Gulf of Thailand, issues on the management of neritic tunas should be discussed at the sub-regional forum for the Gulf of Thailand in order to formulate the sub-regional joint management plan of the species. For the South China Sea area, such area is beyond the mandate of SEAFDEC. As for the Andaman Sea, SEAFDEC can share the results of its works on neritic tunas with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) which has the management mandate in this sub-region.
- On the “*Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia*,” the Policy Guidelines for Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asian Region developed in 2018 was noted. To seek endorsement of the Policy Guidelines under the ASEAN Mechanism, SEAFDEC was requested to seek approval of the document by the Council *ad referendum*, and subsequently circulate the document to the 21FCG/ASSP countries’ head delegates and request comments for endorsement to the ASWGFi *ad referendum*. The FCG/ASSP focal points should be established in order that matters that require urgent consideration could be considered and endorsed by the FCG/ASSP *ad referendum*.
- On the “*Progress on the Establishment of an Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response System for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia*,” the ASEAN Secretariat requested that once the regional technical guidelines/mechanisms for early warning system for aquatic animal diseases is already available and approved by the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC should submit this to the FCG/ASSP for endorsement to ASWGFi.
- Under the “*Updates on the Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture*,” the official launching of the Database with the web address <http://afid.seafdec.org.ph/> was noted.

- **Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Seafood**

- With regards to the “*Progress on the Establishment of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood*,” the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that the Guidelines should be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council at its forthcoming meeting in 2019, and upon the approval of the SEAFDEC Council, the Guidelines would be circulated for endorsement by the FCG/ASSP focal points, and subsequently submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

- **CITES Issues**

- On the commercially exploited aquatic species that are of concern to the Southeast Asian region, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat will organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on the Proposal to CITES CoP18 to facilitate the development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated position. Subsequently, the common/coordinated position once endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council will be submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

7. Under the “**Other Matters**,” the 21FCG/ASSP took note of the proposal on “*Way Forward for Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020*,” which was developed in response to the directive of the SEAFDEC Council during its Fiftieth Meeting in March 2018. The proposed workplan, which includes a review of the progress in the implementation of the RES&POA 2020 and review of the contents of the RES&POA 2020, was also noted.

8. The Report of the 21FCG/ASSP was adopted on 9 November 2018.