

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

**Iloilo City, the Philippines
26-28 November 2007**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirtieth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Iloilo City, the Philippines from 26 to 28 November 2007, and hosted by the Aquaculture Department. The Meeting was attended by the National Coordinators from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam as members of the Program Committee together with their respective delegates. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Department Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs as ex-officio members also attended the Meeting together with officers from the Secretariat and the Departments. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**.

II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, in his capacity as Chairman of the Program Committee, welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He cited the importance of the discussions at this Meeting, particularly in scrutiny of the SEAFDEC programming exercises to ensure that issues and concerns of the Member Countries would be reflected in the programs. He also informed the Meeting of several SEAFDEC achievements during the year 2007, i.e. the SEAFDEC 40th Anniversary celebration, the Margarita Lizárraga Medal awarded to SEAFDEC by FAO as a global recognition of the SEAFDEC activities in support to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Southeast Asia, and the strengthened cooperation between SEAFDEC and ASEAN through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP).

3. Dr. Siri announced and congratulated the appointment of Ms. Mahyam Mohd. Isa as the new Chief of SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). He then declared the Meeting open. His Opening Address appears as **Annex 2**.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Agenda which appears as **Annex 3** was adopted. To utilize the opportunity of this Program Committee Meeting, the Meeting also agreed that the proposal on the Establishment of SEAFDEC Regional Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RSAC) could be discussed as part of the Agenda at this Meeting.

**IV. REVIEW OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE YEAR
2007 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2008**

4.1 Departmental Programs

5. The Meeting took note of the existing Departmental Programs implemented in 2007 and proposed for 2008 including new programs for 2008 (**Annex 4**). The Meeting endorsed the programs after recommending ways and means to ensure that such programs address the needs

of the Member Countries and also noted that MFRD and MFRDMD did not implement any Departmental Programs in 2007 nor propose for 2008 due to the unavailability of extra funding. The programs are as follows:

Existing Departmental Programs

- 1) Center-wide Information Network (Secretariat)
- 2) Information and Communications Technology (TD)
- 3) Integrated Mollusc Production (AQD)
- 4) Mud Crab and Shrimp Domestication (AQD)
- 5) Marine Fish (AQD)
- 6) Small-holder Freshwater Aquaculture (AQD)
- 7) Seaweed Strain Improvement (AQD)
- 8) Aquatic Ecology (AQD)
- 9) Other Research & Development Activities

New Proposed Departmental Program

- 1) Tailor-made Training and Study Tour (TD)

6. With regards to the program on *Center-wide Information Network*, the Meeting was informed that the program's budget comes from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) and that the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) members stationed at the Secretariat is being funded by the collaborative projects between SEAFDEC and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). However, the expenses on communication for the RFPN members with the Member Countries are covered by the program.

7. The Committee Member from Thailand supported the establishment of the Global Small-Scale Fisheries Website. The Meeting was informed that information on small-scale fisheries from the other regions would also be included in the website as the information would be useful for the development of small-scale fisheries in the region and as reference during the forthcoming Small-scale Fisheries Conference to be convened in Bangkok in 2008. In this regard, the Meeting was also informed that regional websites on small-scale fisheries are also being constructed by respective Regional Fishery Bodies to support the global small-scale fisheries website.

8. With regards to the comments of the Committee Member from the Philippines, there is a need for the compilation and production of timely and accurate Fishery Statistical Bulletins. The Meeting was informed that the new framework of fishery statistics in Southeast Asia will be finalized during the forthcoming Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics to be organized in December 2007 under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fishery Consultative Group program on *Improvement of Fishery Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region*. In addition, the questionnaires for the compilation of fishery statistics in Southeast Asia will be harmonized and streamlined with those of the FAO to lessen the burden of the Member Countries in providing fishery statistics to SEAFDEC and FAO. This will facilitate timely production of the Bulletin.

9. With regards to the collaboration between TD and the Australian Maritime College (AMC) to develop a Master's Degree Program through e-learning, the Meeting noted the progress that included the formulation of the curriculum focusing on Responsible Fishing, Coastal Fisheries Management, and Ecology and that the curriculum is now being reviewed by AMC for finalization. The Meeting was also informed that the estimated cost for participating in this course would be only about one third of the cost for taking the same course in Australia. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that certain number of scholarships may be provided to the Member Countries to encourage their participation to the said course. The Meeting requested that the progress made be reported to the next meeting of the Program Committee.

10. The Meeting also suggested that since many activities related to data and information are implemented under several programs, the overall framework and linkages of such relevant programs should be provided to the Committee Members. In this regard, the forthcoming Workshop on Fisheries Information and Database to be organized by TD could be an appropriate opportunity to discuss this matter, and the outcomes should be summarized and presented at the next Program Committee Meeting.

11. The Committee Member from the Philippines suggested that the issue on climate change and its impacts to fisheries, aquaculture and the ecology should also be given due consideration. He further requested TD to compile and disseminate information on the impacts under the program on *Information and Communications Technology*. The Meeting was informed that information related to global warming and its effect on fisheries is in the process of a video production by TD in collaboration with the UNEP/GEF South China Sea environment program.

12. With regards to the Departmental Programs of AQD, the Committee Member from Myanmar requested AQD to extend again its assistance to Myanmar, i.e. technical assistance for conservation and management of mud crab, technology transfer on mud crab fattening, Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP) for freshwater species, e.g. tilapia to meet the requirements of importing countries, and on culture of high value species of marine fishes, e.g. grouper. In response, AQD suggested to provide assistance in 2008 under the sustainable aquaculture development project in Myanmar considering the same level of assistance as that of 2007, which was suspended due to the US sanction imposed on Myanmar.

13. In response to the request of the Committee Member from Vietnam on the mechanism regarding AQD's Agree-Build-Operate-Transfer (ABOT) project and that such mechanism should be extended to other Member Countries, AQD agreed to communicate with Vietnam on the procedures and necessary arrangements of the ABOT project.

14. The Meeting supported the proposed new Departmental Program on *Tailor-made Training and Study Tour*. While noting that the program will be funded from extra-budgetary sources, the Meeting requested that the activities should also accommodate the regional requirements.

15. The Meeting suggested that although the SEAFDEC Departmental Programs are supported by the Governments hosting the Departments and non-traditional sources of funds, such programs should be regional in nature, reflecting regional priority and providing benefits to the Member Countries. The Meeting also took note of the suggestion by the Committee Member from Indonesia for the Secretariat and Departments to demarcate their responsibilities in submitting proposals for the Departmental Programs.

4.2 Programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism

16. For the programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism, the Meeting considered and endorsed progress and achievements made in the year 2007 and proposed activities for 2008, including the new programs proposed for 2008, which appears as **Annex 5**. These programs are as follows:

Existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Programs

- 1) Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Secretariat)
- 2) Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues (Secretariat)

- 3) Strengthening Small-scale Fisheries Management through the Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management (TD)
- 4) Improvement of Fishery Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
- 5) Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature) (TD)
- 6) Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement (TD)
- 7) Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses (TD)
- 8) The Use of Indicators for sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (MFRDMD)
- 9) Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries (MFRDMD)
- 10) Development of Technologies and Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture (AQD)
- 11) Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries (MFRD)
- 12) Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries (MFRD)
- 13) Good Laboratory Quality management in ASEAN Member Countries (MFRD)
- 14) Environmental Related Tasks in Southeast Asia (Secretariat)
- 15) Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals (AQD)
- 16) Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia (MFRD)
- 17) Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement of Species under International Concerns (AQD)
- 18) Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD)
- 19) Capacity Improvement of Fisheries community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty (TD)
- 20) Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
- 21) Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2 (TD)
- 22) Deep Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia (TD)
- 23) Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea (MFRDMD)

New Proposed ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Programs

- 1) Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)” System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
- 2) Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management (TD)
- 3) Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters (TD)

Secretariat

17. While noting that in 2008, the program on *Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* will be renamed to *Support to the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the ASEAN Region*, the Meeting complimented the efforts made by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries in implementing the program and congratulated SEAFDEC for receiving the Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award (2006-2007) for its efforts in the promotion of responsible fisheries in Southeast Asia. The Meeting requested SEAFDEC to continue to provide assistance to the Member Countries in the implementation of the CCRF, including the development of regional guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU fishing in the Region.

18. On the program on *Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues*, the Meeting was informed that a Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-Related Issues would be organized by SEAFDEC in early 2008. The outcomes of the Consultation would be submitted to the forthcoming SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) Meetings for consideration, and to be used as a basis for the Member Countries' participation to the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade to be organized in June 2008.

19. The Meeting suggested that important fisheries-related issues i.e. climate change, fishery subsidies, traceability, small-scale fisheries as well as other issues to be discussed at the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and Sub-committee on Aquaculture in 2008 should be incorporated in the program. The Meeting also reiterated that the program should be developed considering the existing SEAFDEC competence on the issues.

20. With regards to the program on *Improvement of Fishery Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region*, the Committee Member from Thailand expressed the willingness of Thailand to be one of the pilot countries for the development of the National Status and Trends of Fisheries and Aquaculture (STF) in 2008.

21. Regarding the program on *Environmental Related Tasks in Southeast Asia*, the Committee Member from Japan requested SEAFDEC to continue its activities on the conservation and management of sharks and support the development of NPOA-Sharks by the Member Countries, as shark species may be subjected for listing in appendices at the next Conference of Parties of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in 2010. In line with this, the Committee Member from Vietnam also requested SEAFDEC to provide assistance in organizing a national planning meeting to draft the National Plan of Action on Conservation and Management of Sharks.

22. With regards to the new program on *Promotion of "One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)" System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region*, the Meeting was informed that the Project Inception Meeting will be organized in early 2008, and that the detailed activities under the program would be discussed during the said Inception Meeting.

23. The Meeting took note of the "International Conference on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bring together responsible fisheries and social development" to be organized by FAO and co-hosted by Thailand in collaboration with SEAFDEC and the WorldFish Center. The tentative themes for discussion are: 1) Human Rights, 2) Fishing Rights, and 3) Post-harvest Technology and Trade. In this regard, the Meeting requested SEAFDEC to actively involve in the Conference, e.g. delivering the keynote speech at the Conference, arranging small panel discussions, putting up of exhibition booths and disseminating information materials as well as having strong intervention during the Meeting.

Training Department

24. Regarding the program on *Strengthening Small-scale Fisheries Management through the Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management*, the Meeting was informed that the program will be replaced by the program on *Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management* starting in 2008.

25. On the *Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices* program, the Committee Member from the Philippines informed the Meeting that the Philippines has already completed a series of experiments on the use of JTEDs in various areas of the country. The policy on the

use of JTEDs has been drafted and consultations among stakeholders will be conducted before its approval. The Philippines would also conduct experiment of a new gear for shrimp trawlers, which are used by small-scale fishermen. The meeting was further informed that the outcomes of this experiment would be reported during the forthcoming meetings of the Program Committee and be disseminated to all Member Countries. However, the assistance from TD was sought in the implementation of such experiment. The Meeting was also informed of the completion of publication on Fishing Gear and Methods in Brunei Darussalam which is ready for distribution.

26. The Committee Member from the Philippines also commended the success of TD in implementing the program on *Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement*, which are now replicated in several areas of the Philippines, and requested that the activities under this program should be continued.

27. With regards to the program on *Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2*, the Committee Member from Myanmar requested TD to conduct a bottom vertical longline survey in the untrawlable fishing grounds in Myanmar. He informed the Meeting that his country has already imposed closed season and closed areas for fish conservation purposes as well as restrictions on mesh size of trawlers and drift nets, and banned the use of illegal fishing practices. In this connection, he reiterated the request of Myanmar for technical assistance from TD to conduct a survey in the area where the closed season for the set net has been implemented and that he would communicate with TD on the required activities to be incorporated under the program. The Committee Member from Vietnam requested to extend deadline of finalization of proposals for the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 until the end of 2007.

28. Regarding the program on *Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asian Waters*, the Committee Member from Vietnam requested that TD should try to collect information from all countries bordering the South China Sea in implementation of the program.

29. As for the new program on *Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management*, the Committee Member from Thailand supported the development of a regional database system which is envisaged to be very useful for fisheries management, and suggested that the database directory should be established. The Member Countries could agree on minimum data requirements and provide their list of databases to the directory. In addition, he also proposed that Thailand could serve as the lead country for database directory establishments.

Marine Fisheries Research Department

30. With regards to the program on *Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia*, the Meeting took note that the project activities would be completed by the end of 2008. In this connection, the Meeting requested MFRD to explore possibility to extend the program beyond 2008. The Committee Member from the Philippines informed the Meeting of their interests to collaborate, as activities on analysis of antibiotic residues in aquaculture products are currently being implemented by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

31. The Committee Member from Myanmar informed the Meeting that in relation to the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector specifically on food safety, the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar has been tasked to effectively implement laws, updated regulations, and standards in line with the requirements of importing countries for fish and fishery products as well as for traditional fishery products for local consumption. In order for Myanmar to comply with such requirements, he therefore requested MFRD to provide

technical assistance, e.g. dispatch the expert specifically on the harmonization of food safety practices in the ASEAN region as well as in the implementation of management systems such as the Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Manufacturing Practices/Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (GMP/SSOP) guidelines.

Aquaculture Department

32. With regards to the program on *Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement of Species under International Concerns*, the Committee Member from Thailand suggested that the involvement of the Member Countries in the program should be intensified through the conduct of a regional workshop to assess the existing methodologies.

33. With regards to the *Development of Technologies and Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture*, the Committee Member from Vietnam requested that funds to support the participation of the Member Countries in such training courses should also be provided, e.g. from the Japanese Trust Fund.

34. Regarding the AQD programs, the Committee Member from Myanmar informed the Meeting that the mud crab resource in Myanmar is almost over-exploited due to high demand from the importing countries and irresponsible fisheries practices and that the exploitation rate of mud crab is increasing while the size of landing is getting smaller. For conservation purpose, the country has banned the export of under-sized mud crabs and encourages the release of under-sized mud crabs to the natural waters. In this regard, he reiterated his request for the transfer of technology on mud crab fattening as this would be an effective way to nurse the under-sized mud crab collected from the landing sites into marketable size. He added that technical assistance could be in the form of experts visit, training for trainers, etc. which could be essential to address the concerns of the country's mud crab industry.

35. In order to strengthen the implementation of activities on sustainable aquaculture development, the Meeting suggested AQD to coordinate closely with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) on areas of common interest.

Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

36. With regards to the program on *Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles*, the Committee Member from the Philippines suggested that follow-up actions be conducted on the interaction between sea turtles and fisheries, and that the Philippines intend to participate in the satellite telemetry and turtle tagging programs conducted by SEAFDEC. While agreeing with the suggestion, the Committee Member from Brunei Darussalam suggested that this turtle program should be implemented in all Member Countries where possible.

37. The Committee Member from Myanmar requested that activities on the installation of Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTTs) should be continued in Myanmar for Olive Ridley Turtle and Green Turtle in order to observe their nesting and foraging habitats. He informed the Meeting on the need to conduct awareness and educational program for the local people and the fishermen in various sites of the country to make them aware on the importance of sea turtles and for them to avoid killing the sea turtles.

38. The Committee Member from the Philippines expressed his appreciation of the activities implemented under the program on *Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea*, and informed the Meeting that the Philippines would further communicate with MFRDMD and TD on the activities to be proposed by the Philippines for 2008.

39. The Meeting noted that there are inactive programs but considered important for the Member Countries and fisheries development of the region. The Meeting requested SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to seek funding support from possible donors e.g. the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), etc., in order to address such important issues. The Meeting also agreed that tailor-made activities may be arranged to address the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries, if funding is available/provided. The Meeting agreed that in order to secure these financial supports, the forthcoming Department Chiefs' Meeting (DCM) will explore the potential sources of funds through the arrangement of one day special seminar on the issue. The Meeting therefore recommended dropping the following programs until funding becomes secured:

- The Use of Indicators for sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (MFRDMD);
- Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries (MFRDMD);
- Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries (MFRD); and
- Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries (MFRD).

4.3 Other Programs

40. The Meeting took note of the other SEAFDEC programs/activities implemented in 2007 and proposed for 2008 (**Annex 6**), as follows:

- 1) Promotion of Set-Net; an Eco-friendly Fishing Gear of Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management (TD)
- 2) Information Collection for Economical Important Species: as Surimi Raw Materials (TD)
- 3) Cetacean Research in Southeast Asian Waters: Whale Watching Program (new) (TD)
- 4) Collection of Information about International Support in the Region (TD)
- 5) Promotion of Sustainable Freshwater Aquaculture for Rural Communities (Secretariat)

41. With regards to the program on *Promotion of Set-Net an Eco-friendly Fishing Gear of Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management*, the Meeting took note of the Workshop on Set Net to be organized by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and TD in 2007, in Rayong Province, Thailand. The Meeting was informed that TD has planned to conduct a fellowship training on eco-friendly fishing gear for representatives from the Member Countries in April 2008.

42. With regards to the program on *Information Collection for Economical Important Species: as Surimi Raw Materials*, the Meeting suggested that in addition to the collection of information on the fishery resources, investigation on new species as Surimi raw materials should also be conducted. In addition, the use of species from inland capture fisheries and aquaculture for Surimi production should also be studied. In this connection, TD was requested to further collaborate with MFRD and AQD in the implementation of such activities based on the availability of fund.

43. With regards to the program on *Cetacean Research in Southeast Asian Waters: Whale Watching Program*, the Meeting took note that the activities would be conducted to collect scientific information on Cetacean species composition. The Meeting was also informed that the data would be collected using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 based on her existing cruise plans. The Committee Member from Cambodia requested SEAFDEC to also include the collection of information on freshwater porpoises for conservation purposes.

44. While considering the program proposal, the Meeting indicated that the objectives, expected outputs and proposed activities were unclear and requested TD to provide relevant information of the program for further review by the Member Countries.

45. While noting the importance of the information collection as the results would provide a picture of the funding support provided to various scopes of fisheries-related programs/activities in the Member Countries, the Meeting supported the implementation of the program on the *Collection of Information about International Support in the Region*, and requested to take further efforts to comprehensively collect additional information from other missing sources e.g. the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Japan, etc. The result of information update will be reported to the next meeting of the Program Committee.

46. The Meeting took note of the program on *Promotion of Sustainable Freshwater Aquaculture for Rural Communities*, which has been implemented by the Secretariat as an ad-hoc project to reduce development disparity among Member Countries, with emphasis given to countries that inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture are important for rural development. The Meeting was also informed that the nature activities implemented focuses mainly on coordination and mobilization of expertise and experience from AQD, the Member Countries and relevant international/regional organizations in the region.

47. The Meeting supported the program and the suggestion of the Committee Members from Thailand and Indonesia as there are limited number activities at present focusing on inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture. The Committee Member from Cambodia also reiterated that inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture play very important roles in many countries in the region, e.g., Lao PDR and Cambodia. The Meeting therefore suggested that programs aiming at development of rural communities e.g. aquaculture and fisheries in inland waters could be proposed under the ASSP framework to the forthcoming ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG and ASWGFi Meetings for consideration.

4.4 Overview of Japanese Trust Fund Programs for 2008

48. The Meeting was informed on the Overview of the Japanese Trust Fund Program for 2008 (**Annex 7**) and noted that the implementation of the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) projects and activities is in line with priorities and needs of the Member Countries. Furthermore, the Meeting was also informed that the SEAFDEC Program Planning Meeting for the Japanese Trust Fund for 2008 and Onwards was organized in Thailand in June 2007. In the Program Planning Meeting some of the proposals submitted to the Meeting, which were considered to meet the JTF criteria and the objectives of relevant JTF components have been accommodated in the SEAFDEC regional programs to be implemented in 2008 under the new JTF2 and JTF3 and JTF4.

49. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the support provided by the Japanese Trust Fund and suggested that the Japanese Trust Fund should continue to provide a clear scope and priority areas of each JTF Component to the Member Countries to facilitate understanding of the JTFs among the Member Countries.

50. In the finalization of the Japanese Trust Fund Program for 2008, the Program Lead Departments had been already requested to consider and reflect the suggested changes into the annual plan and submit the revised annual plan to the Secretariat by 5 December 2007 for submission as early as possible to the Fisheries Agency of Japan.

51. In addition to the annual plan for 2008, the formulation of the new JTF5 is now under the process of finalization and submission to the Secretariat by the Lead Departments by the first quarter of 2008 for negotiation with the Japanese Government. The Program Lead Departments are requested to coordinate with the Lead Countries as well as the participating countries in finalizing the project proposals before submission to the Secretariat. After the approval of the budget for the Japanese Fiscal Year 2009, a Program Planning Meeting for the TF5 may be organized in 2009, for the Member Countries to discuss the activities to be implemented in 2010 and onwards, while the Member Countries could also communicate directly with the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments on the activities of interest.

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

52. The Meeting took note of a number of pipeline projects (**Annex 8**) which are still under discussion and negotiation process with donor agencies, as follows:

- 1) Community Fisheries – Strengthening Organization of Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods in Coastal Areas (Secretariat/Islamic Development Bank-IDB)
- 2) Human Resource Development (HRD) on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat/ASEAN Foundation)
- 3) Awareness Building on sustainable Development of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat/ASEAN Foundation)
- 4) Transboundary Collaborative Arrangement Supporting Aquatic Resources and Habitat Management for Sustainable Fisheries (TD/Wetland Alliance Program)

53. With regards to the program on *Community Fisheries – Strengthening Organization of Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods in Coastal Areas*, the Concept Proposal has been prepared by the Secretariat, and Indonesia was requested to submit the proposal to IDB and appoint the focal point to follow-up this matter. The Meeting suggested that in the elaboration of the project proposal, activities in inland areas could also be looked into.

54. With regards to the program on *Human Resource Development (HRD) on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region*, the proposal is under finalization process by the ASEAN Foundation and the project agreement is expected to be signed by the end of 2007 or early 2008. However, the detailed project activities would be discussed and finalized at the Project Inception Meeting to be held in 2008.

55. With regards to the program on *Awareness Building on Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region*, the Meeting noted that the proposal has been prepared upon the request of the ASEAN Foundation, and will be submitted to the ASEAN Foundation for comments and consideration.

56. The Meeting suggested that in order to seek more funding support from donor agencies, the issues of human resources development, poverty alleviation, and gender issues, etc. should be given more emphasis.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Establishment of Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RSAC)

57. The Meeting reviewed the draft proposal on Establishment of Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RSAC), however stressed that RSAC is not part of the Program Committee although the outcome of the discussion on the proposal at this Meeting would be submitted to the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

58. Since there was no consensus on the proposal to include in the Terms of Reference of RSAC “to advise on the delineation and coordination among the SEAFDEC programs related to fisheries management”, the Meeting suggested that such proposal will be subject to further reviews by the SEAFDEC Council. The Meeting also suggested that there should be communication between RSAC and the Program Committee.

59. Considering that RSAC is proposed to be established as a subsidiary body to the SEAFDEC Council to provide a regional framework for discussion and provide scientific/technical advice and options for improving fisheries management, the Meeting pointed out that outcomes from the existing SEAFDEC programs could be used as inputs for RSAC to analyze and formulate scientific/technical advice to SEAFDEC Council. In addition, the recommendations of RSAC would also form as guiding principles for the formulation and harmonization of the activities related to fisheries management for implementation by SEAFDEC.

60. The Meeting agreed that the Chairman of RSAC will be elected from the representatives of the Member Countries on an annual rotational basis. The Committee Member from Singapore further suggested that membership of RSAC should have a fixed term. The Meeting also requested the Secretariat to furnish the Member Countries the proposed organizational structure to be discussed with their Council Directors before the next meeting of the Council.

61. The Meeting noted the concern expressed by some Member Countries on the potential implication of RSAC to existing SEAFDEC Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) and therefore requested the Secretariat to prepare a detailed information to facilitate discussion and consideration at the Council Meeting including the amount of financial requirement from the MRC for the organization of RSAC meetings, both under option 1 (to be fully fund by the MRC) and option 2 (to be partially funded by the MRC).

62. The Meeting, after deliberation, adopted the Draft Proposal on Establishment of Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (**Annex 9**), to be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

6.2 Others

63. The Meeting requested that information and publications on the outcomes of the SEAFDEC Departmental Programs should be disseminated to all Member Countries specifically through the Departmental Websites. The Meeting also requested that information on the training courses to be organized by SEAFDEC should be provided to the Member Countries in advance to allow time for the Member Countries to make the necessary arrangements for their participation in the courses.

64. The Committee Member from Thailand suggested that in order that all programs are implemented in a holistic approach and to facilitate sourcing of funds for the implementation of the activities, a clear SEAFDEC program framework (or guiding principle), outlining directions or thrusts for the formulation of programs/activities should be established. The program framework should take into consideration the technical competence of SEAFDEC as well as the priorities and needs of the Member Countries in fisheries development and management. Along this line, RSAC can be considered as a program thrust for fisheries management to comprehensively review the existing management related programs/projects to find duplicated and/or missing priority area to have a holistic view of SEAFDEC fisheries management related programs. The Meeting requested that the draft SEAFDEC program framework be submitted to the next meeting of the Program Committee for consideration.

65. The Meeting also suggested that the presentations during the future meetings of the Program Committee should be simple and concise by avoiding technical terms and too detailed information, focusing only on the main results of the programs.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

7.1 Adoption of Report of the Meeting

66. The Committee adopted the report of the Thirtieth Meeting on 28 November 2007, which would be submitted to the next SEAFDEC Council Meeting and high authority of ASEAN through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG).

7.2 Date and Venue of the Thirty First Meeting of the Program Committee

67. The Chief of MFRD expressed her Department's willingness to host the Thirty-first Meeting of the Program Committee in Singapore. She would further seek the guidance of the Secretariat in finalizing the schedule and related arrangements for the Meeting including the date and venue of the Meeting.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

68. In his Closing Remarks, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, in his capacity as Chairman of the Program Committee, thanked the Committee Members and other participants for their active participation and contributions to the Meeting. He then declared the Meeting closed. His closing speech appears as **Annex 10**.

Annex 1

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