

**REPORT OF THE FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT
CENTER**

**Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
5-9 April 2010**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Forty-Second Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR from 5 to 9 April 2010, at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR.

2. The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam together with their respective delegations; the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials of SEAFDEC. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, the Colombo Plan Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat, and the official auditors of SEAFDEC. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

1.1 Inaugural Ceremony

3. The Inaugural Ceremony of the 42nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council was held on 5 April 2010, and was presided over by His Excellency, Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR, as the Guest of Honor. The Ceremony was also officiated by Dr. Khampheng Xaysompheng, the Vice Governor of Luang Prabang Province.

4. The Deputy Director-General of the Fisheries Agency of Japan and SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan, Mr. Jun Yamashita in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2009-2010, welcomed the participants to the Meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for hosting the 42nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and for the country's continued support extended to SEAFDEC. He stressed that the membership of Lao PDR in SEAFDEC since 2003, has enabled SEAFDEC to heighten its efforts in promoting sustainable fisheries development in the whole ASEAN region. He also thanked the Member Countries for their cooperation in the various programs implemented by SEAFDEC, and specifically in coming up with the regional coordinated positions on the issues that threaten the sustainable utilization of fishery resources in the region. His Welcome Statement appears as **Annex 2**.

5. The Vice Governor of Luang Prabang, Dr. Khampheng Xaysompheng also welcomed the participants to Luang Prabang, which is known as the City of World Heritage. He cited the importance of Luang Prabang in the economic development of Lao PDR, and added that the Province of Luang Prabang in particular, has always given importance in the protection and conservation of the aquatic resources. With the Government of Lao PDR giving much emphasis in developing measures to conserve the country's natural resources in harmony

with efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the socio-economic conditions of the people who are dependent on the resources, he expressed the hope that the Meeting would be able to map future programs that could address the sustainability of fisheries in the country as well as in the whole Southeast Asian region. His Welcome Address appears as **Annex 3**.

6. The Director-General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of Lao PDR and SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR, Dr. Bounkhouang Khambounheuang welcomed participants to the Meeting. He thanked the outgoing Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, Mr. Jun Yamashita for his excellent job in steering SEAFDEC towards its goal of promoting sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region during his incumbency from 2009 to 2010. While considering Lao PDR as the youngest member of SEAFDEC since 2003, he expressed the hope that SEAFDEC would be able to assist in the development of inland fisheries in the region specifically in Lao PDR which has the potentials for inland fisheries and aquaculture development. His Welcome Remarks appears as **Annex 4**.

7. The Minister for Agriculture and Forestry for Lao PDR, H.E. Sitaheng Rasphone, thanked the participants for coming all the way to Luang Prabang for the 42nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. He commended SEAFDEC for making significant strides in promoting sustainable fisheries development in the ASEAN region, and added that the issues that impede the sustainability of fisheries could be addressed through strong coordination, collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders, as well as through viable partnerships among the ASEAN, SEAFDEC and development partners. He expressed his confidence that with the active participation of all participants, the Meeting would be able to come up with the needed immediate and mid-term plans to support the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. With that note, he declared the 42nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council open. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 5**.

1.2 Election of the Chairperson for 2010-2011

8. The Council Director for Lao PDR, Dr. Bounkhouang Khambounheuang, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2010-2011, in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC.

9. While expressing his gratitude to the Council Directors for the opportunity given him to undertake the challenging task as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, Dr. Bounkhouang Khambounheuang sought for the support of the Council Members and SEAFDEC in order that with united and coordinated efforts, SEAFDEC could be placed in higher mounting. He reiterated his appreciation to Mr. Jun Yamashita, the Council Director for Japan for his excellent chairmanship from 2009 to 2010, which has steered SEAFDEC towards its goal in promoting sustainable fisheries development in the region.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

10. The Council adopted the Agenda of the Meeting, which appears as **Annex 6**.

II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

11. The Council congratulated Dr. Bounkhouang Khambounheuang for being elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2010-2011, and expressed its appreciation to Mr. Jun Yamashita, the Council Director for Japan for his efficient chairmanship of the

Council and for leading the SEAFDEC Council Directors towards providing SEAFDEC with the directives and guidance during the past year.

12. After commending the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for the continued efforts in promoting sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region in 2009 and specifically in addressing the issues that threaten the sustainability of fisheries in the region, as indicated in the report presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, the Council approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2009 for publication and dissemination. The Council, however, suggested that SEAFDEC should enhance its collaboration with the Member Countries in the compilation of fisheries information and statistics on small-scale coastal and inland fisheries, the conduct of studies on the conservation of inland cetacean species and large aquatic species in the Mekong River basin, and in sustaining its activities related to poverty alleviation as well as on human resource development (HRD) and capacity building.

13. While commending SEAFDEC for its continued efforts in providing expertise to the Member Countries in various areas of responsible fisheries and aquaculture development, the Council requested SEAFDEC to also strengthen its efforts in developing adaptive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture. In this regard, the Council assured SEAFDEC of its continued support in the implementation of relevant programs and activities in the Member Countries.

14. Moreover, the Council also congratulated Ms. Tan Poh Hong for her appointment as the SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore, Mr. Khin Ko Lay as the Council Director for Myanmar, Dr. Nanthiya Unprasert as the Alternate Council Director for Thailand, and Ms. Tan-Low Lai Kim as the Alternate Council Director for Singapore. The Council also took note of the appointments of Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri as SEAFDEC Secretary-General and concurrently as Chief of the Training Department (TD), Mr. Yeap Soon Eong as the Chief of the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Dr. Teruo Azuma as the Deputy Chief of the Aquaculture Department (AQD), and the reappointments of Dr. Joebert Toledo as the Chief of AQD and Mrs. Mahyam Mohd Isa as the Chief of the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD).

15. Furthermore, the Council also endorsed the appointments by the Government of Japan of Mr. Kenji Matsumoto as the Deputy Chief of the Training Department and concurrently Deputy Secretary General of SEAFDEC from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2012, and that of Dr. Masaya Katoh as the Deputy Chief of MFRDMD from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2012.

16. During the discussion, the Council Director for Malaysia expressed his appreciation to the outgoing Deputy Chief of MFRDMD, Dr. Osamu Abe and welcomed Dr. Masaya Katoh as the new Deputy Chief for MFRDMD. He commended SEAFDEC for the implementation of activities focusing on poverty alleviation and food security and for extending cooperation with the National Agriculture Training Council (NATC) of Malaysia in the development of a "Train the Trainers" programs for the NATC.

17. The Council Director for Myanmar thanked SEAFDEC for providing technical assistance during the conduct of training on seed production and culture of mud crab. He emphasized that mud crab aquaculture is important for the livelihood and food security of the people in the coastal areas of Myanmar. In this regard, he also expressed his appreciation to

the Japanese Trust Fund for its continued support in the promotion of mud crab aquaculture in Myanmar.

18. The Council Director for Lao PDR also thanked SEAFDEC for conducting HRD activities on poverty alleviation in Lao PDR, as this activity could support the development of the fisheries sector of the country.

19. The Council Director for the Philippines expressed his gratitude to SEAFDEC for sending experts to the Philippines for the project on tuna handling onboard fishing vessels which aims to improve the quality of tuna sashimi for export. He also thanked SEAFDEC for conducting the training on fish larvae identification in the Southeast Asian waters, and requested SEAFDEC to assist the Member Countries in mitigating the impacts of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, and to continue developing formulated feeds for marine fish aquaculture.

20. The Council Director for Indonesia suggested that SEAFDEC should also explore the possibility of developing aquaculture technologies for new aquatic species with economic potentials.

21. The Council Director for Cambodia suggested that the program on fisheries statistics and information should also focus on small-scale coastal and inland fisheries. He emphasized on the need to conserve and manage the Irrawaddy dolphin found in the Mekong River and other Southeast Asian freshwater systems. In addition, he also suggested that SEAFDEC should consider conducting research on large freshwater species such as the giant catfish, giant barb, etc. He commended SEAFDEC for conducting activities on poverty alleviation in the coastal and inland fishing communities such as the program on “Promotion of One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP) System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region” and community-based fisheries management, as well as in mitigating the impacts of climate change in freshwater environments specifically in the Mekong River basin.

22. The Council Director for Vietnam suggested that SEAFDEC should consider conducting a program on post-harvest technology and also promoting the transfer of technology on deep sea fisheries survey in order to explore alternative fisheries resources.

III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULT OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

23. The Council took note of the outcome of the Thirty-second Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (**Annex 7**) held from 16 to 18 November 2009 in Malaysia, as presented by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairperson of the Program Committee. The Council noted the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2009 and approved the proposed programs for 2010 as well as the recommendations made at the Program Committee Meeting for future implementation.

24. The Council underlined the importance of activities that contribute to food security and poverty alleviation, more specifically on the future development of the guidelines on the proper use of chemicals in aquaculture taking into consideration the results of the workshop on the use of harmful chemicals in aquaculture organized in Malaysia which was attended by representatives and experts from the SEAFDEC Member Countries except Brunei

Darussalam, Myanmar and Lao PDR. In this connection, the Council Director for Malaysia requested these three countries to provide information on the use of chemicals in aquaculture in their respective countries, which could be included in the proceedings of the workshop.

25. The Council Director for Malaysia also supported the implementation of safety at sea program focusing the fishing vessels below 24-meters. In addition, he requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating the issue on hygiene onboard fishing vessels in accordance with the international requirements.

26. The representative from FAO/RAP informed the Meeting that FAO has recently concluded the South Asia safety at sea program funded by the Government of Sweden, and came up with relevant information and lessons learned which are accessible through the FAO website. He suggested that SEAFDEC could make use of such information for the implementation of relevant activities. He added that FAO is implementing safety at sea through its Regional Fisheries Livelihood Program (RFLP) and looked forward to collaborating with SEAFDEC in the development of the guidelines on safety at sea for the Southeast Asian region.

IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (RAC) ON THE RESULT OF THE SECOND RAC MEETING

27. The Council was informed on the outcomes from the Second Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RAC) held from 2 to 4 September 2009 (**Annex 8**) as presented by Mr. Nguyen Viet Manh of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam on behalf of the RAC Chairperson. The summary and recommendations included important fisheries management issues relevant to the Southeast Asian region, such as Enhancement of Fisheries Resources/Stock and Improving Fisheries Management Mechanism.

28. The Council Director for Japan supported the initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC in promoting sustainable management of the fisheries resources, fishing vessel registration and catch documentation, and expressed the willingness of Japan to support the implementation of projects that address such initiatives starting in 2011. In this regard, Japan would coordinate with SEAFDEC in the formulation of the relevant project proposals and encourage SEAFDEC to enhance its collaboration with the Member Countries to ensure the effective implementation of the projects.

29. The Council Director for Thailand supported the implementation of co-management of fisheries resources starting from the compilation of available data on resources management. In this regard, SEAFDEC was requested to consider analyzing the data obtained from the program on Information Collection on Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters, and Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and the Andaman Sea in order to come up with the information that could contribute to the sustainable management of small pelagic fisheries in the region. She also supported the harmonization of fishing vessel registration among the countries in the region.

30. The Council Director for Malaysia while supporting the recommendations from the Second RAC Meeting, requested that the RAC Secretariat should also identify the

appropriate actions to be undertaken by the Member Countries in addressing the important fisheries management issues as well as the areas where technical expertise are required. He also suggested that SEAFDEC should develop the guidelines on catch documentation scheme for the Southeast Asian region.

31. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the Regional Policy Recommendations to Improve Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia, and requested SEAFDEC to take into consideration the recommendations of the Meeting in the formulation of future programs and activities.

V. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

32. The Council took note of the results and endorsed the recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG-ASSP), which was held from 19 to 20 November 2009 in Malaysia (**Annex 9**), as presented by Mr. Nguyen Viet Manh on behalf of the ASEAN Co-Chair of the FCG-ASSP.

33. The Council was informed on the progress of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 and the progress of the establishment of ASSP Portal Website. In addition, the Council also took note of the three concept notes, namely: i) “Climate Change and Its Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation towards Food Security”; ii) “Promoting Sustainable Food Production through Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices”; and iii) “Strengthening Food Security Arrangements through Fisheries Intervention: Strengthening National and Local Government in the Development of Food Security Programs/Initiatives”. The concept notes were developed to support the fisheries sector in contributing to food security in the region as guided by the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA-FS) as adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th Summit in March 2009.

34. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that the Second Expert Meeting on the ASEAN Shrimp GAP (Good Aquaculture Practice) was convened on 30-31 March 2010 and the GAP is already at the final stage of development. The GAP Guidelines will be circulated to the ASEAN members for comments by the end of April 2010. The ASEAN Shrimp GAP would be subsequently submitted for consideration and endorsement during the upcoming meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) in Brunei Darussalam. She also added that this initiative is envisaged to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Member Countries in producing quality shrimp products and in complying with the international standard requirements for certification of cultured shrimp production from the region.

VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

6.1 International Fisheries-related Issues/Emerging Issues and Responses to Request of the Council

6.1.1 International Fisheries-related Issues

35. The Council was informed on the recent information and regional position on the important international fisheries related issues which have been identified during the 12th Meeting of the FCG-ASSP and subsequently discussed at the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on the International Fisheries-related Issues on 2-4 February 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. The priority issues included: 1) the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species-the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CITES COP-15); 2) FAO Legally-Binding Instrument on Port State Measures for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; 3) EC Regulation: Catch Certification Scheme; 4) Fisheries Subsidies/WTO; and 5) Aquaculture Certification.

- ***CITES COP-15***

36. The Council took note of the outcomes and endorsed the coordinated position of the SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposal for listing of commercially aquatic species to the CITES Appendices. As agreed during the RTC, the Member Countries were encouraged to make use of the coordinated positions during the CITES COP-15 organized in March 2010 in Doha, Qatar. The Council was informed on the results of the CITES COP-15 where the six proposals to list in the CITES Appendices certain aquatic species, *i.e.* 1) Atlantic bluefin tuna; 2) spiny dogfish; 3) scalloped hammerhead and look-alike species; 4) oceanic whitetip shark; 5) all species in the family Coralliidae; and 6) porbeagle shark, were rejected.

37. The Council Director for Japan while expressing his appreciation to SEAFDEC and the Member Countries for reflecting the region's coordinated position during the CITES COP-15 resulting in fruitful achievement, emphasized that the management of commercial aquatic species should be done by relevant regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). He added that the management of targets species for fisheries should be done by fisheries authorities and not by customs related offices. He then encouraged SEAFDEC to continue working closely with the Member Countries to further promote the sustainable utilization and management of the fisheries resources.

38. The representative from FAO/RAP suggested that in providing support to the Member Countries for the future development of the coordinated positions on international fisheries-related issues, SEAFDEC should take into consideration and clearly report the technical justification on the decisions made during the regional meetings.

- ***FAO Legally-Binding Instruments on Port State Measures for Combating IUU fishing***

39. The Council took note of the progress on the development of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and also noted the status and difficulties faced by Member Countries in the implementation of the Port State Measures.

40. The Council Director for Thailand emphasized that it is important to prepare the readiness of the Member Countries on this matter and requested SEAFDEC to organize the regional workshop to review the legal implications of the implementation of the Agreement in order to facilitate the implementation of the Port State Measures. The Council also requested SEAFDEC to coordinate with FAO to provide the necessary experts as resource persons during the workshop.

41. The Council Director for Japan emphasized that measure to combat IUU fishing is very important however, countries and the relevant RFMOs should come up with the optimum combination of the measures that are most suitable for the region. In this connection, the implementation of the Port State Measures by the Member Countries should consider the specificity of the region. In addition, as the implementation of the Port State Measures would involve certain changes in the regulations and administrative procedures of the Member Countries, SEAFDEC should therefore continue to play its important role of closely collaborating with the Member Countries and providing information on the development of the discussion and implementation status of each country.

42. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Meeting that Myanmar had already ratified the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. However, in order to support the implementation of the Agreement by the Member Countries, human capacity building activities are required. The Council therefore requested SEAFDEC to coordinate with FAO to seek support in the relevant capacity building activities.

- ***EC Regulation: Catch Certification Scheme***

43. The Council took note of the views on the implementation by Member Countries of the EC Regulation: Catch Certification Scheme, which took effect on 1 January 2010. The Council also noted that the Regulation requires all fishing vessels carrying fishery products and also the 3rd party trading with the EU countries, to provide their catch certificates and other related documents. To ensure that trade flow among the Southeast Asian countries is maintained, there is still a need to develop regional approaches, and support in terms of national capacity building activities of the respective countries to meet the requirements of the EC Regulation.

44. The representative from FAO/RAP, while noting that bilateral discussions had been conducted between EU and several SEAFDEC Member Countries, suggested that regional approaches in response to the EC Regulation and sharing the experiences among the Member Countries are also very important. In this regard, the role of SEAFDEC on this aspect should be underlined and SEAFDEC should assist its Member Countries in preparing the regional approaches and in ensuring that Member Countries could comply with the EU Regulation.

45. The Council Director for Japan informed the Council that measures to combat IUU fishing are very crucial. In this regard, SEAFDEC was encouraged to support the Member Countries in the implementation of fishing vessel registration and catch documentation schemes through the project supported by the Japanese Trust Fund in 2011, and requested SEAFDEC to also collaborate with the Member Countries and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and to discuss and formulate the outline of the project in order to ensure that the project will be highly useful for the Member Countries.

- *Fisheries Subsidies/WTO*

46. The Council noted the progress of the development of the WTO negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies, Trade Negotiating Group on Rules (NGRs) and the draft Chair's Text on Fisheries Subsidies.

47. The Council Director for Japan informed the Council that the draft Chair's Text prohibited too broad fisheries subsidies. However, some fisheries subsidies contribute to fisheries management and also play very important role in terms of policy formulations such as social security. He added that the Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) for developing countries is a subject that should be examined with much caution. In this regard, he requested SEAFDEC to continue working on this issue closely with the Member Countries.

- *Aquaculture Certification*

48. The Council took note of the development of the Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification which was initiated by FAO. The Council was also informed that the guidelines were finalized for submission to the Meeting of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in June 2010.

49. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that as a result of the Technical Consultation on Aquaculture Certification Guidelines held in Rome in mid-February 2010, the Technical Guidelines had been revised. The latest version of the Technical Guidelines had already incorporated the elements from important international instruments such as the Codex, OIE, and ILO guidelines, where the Minimum Substantive Criteria include areas on Food Safety, Environmental Integrity, Animal Health and Welfare, and Socio-economic Aspects. She added that this latest version of the Guidelines will be submitted to the upcoming Meeting of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture to be held in June 2010 in Bangkok.

50. While noting that there are several certification schemes promoted by many organizations including the private sector, the Council Director for Indonesia suggested that SEAFDEC should further develop a certification system that is applicable for the countries in the region, in consistent with the FAO Technical Guidelines.

51. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the Executive Report on International Fisheries-related Issues (2009-2010) which appears as **Annex 10**.

6.1.2 Emerging Issues and Responses to Request of the Council

52. The Council was informed on the emerging issues and responses to the requests of the Council during its 41st Meeting in 2009 which appear in **Annex 11**.

- *Climate Change and Its Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture*

53. The Council took note of the progress in the development of the activities and project implementation to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture. The Council also noted the on-going development of the "ASEAN Ad-Hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security" within the ASEAN umbrella. In

this regard, SEAFDEC under the ASSP framework should coordinate with this Committee. In addition, the Council was also informed that during the up-coming ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum and ASWGFi Meetings in June 2009, “Adaptation and Mitigation of the Impacts of Climate Change” has been included as one of the key cluster areas led by the Philippines.

54. The Council Director for Cambodia suggested that activities to mitigate the impacts of climate change should not only focus on marine fisheries but also on inland fisheries and aquaculture.

55. The representative from FAO/RAP informed the Council that although there are no mature programs at the moment on climate change implemented by the countries, it was only during the Copenhagen Conference on climate change that the impacts on climate change on marine environment were discussed and received global attention. In this connection, he suggested that SEAFDEC should consider the conduct of activities related to management and rehabilitation of mangroves, such as mangrove friendly aquaculture, conservation and management of mangroves, etc. In the implementation of these activities SEAFDEC should also collaborate with the coastal area management and forestry related agencies.

- ***FAO/IMO/ILO initiative and response to ILO/IMO Conventions***

56. The Council took note of the progress in the development of the activities and project implementation in raising awareness of the provisions in the IMO and ILO Conventions which are extended to the labor aspects in the ASEAN region. The Council also noted that SEAFDEC has been promoting the FAO/IMO/ILO initiatives especially on labor concerns and the possible implications to the fisheries sector.

57. The Council Director for Thailand highlighted that although the ILO/IMO Conventions are relatively new, these are important not only to fisheries but also to aquaculture. She informed the Meeting that some works in relation to ILO/IMO Conventions have already been addressed by the countries such as awareness on safety at sea concerns. She also suggested that it is important for the Member Countries to understand the guidelines of both ILO and IMO to enable them to implement the guidelines under the Conventions, and requested SEAFDEC to collaborate with FAO and related agencies for the conduct of a regional workshop in order to assist the countries in the elaboration and implementation of the guidelines, in particular for the artisanal fisheries operations as well as small-scale aquaculture operations. As this matter is related to the promotion of safety at sea, she also pointed out that the matter on safety at sea should include the safety practices for authorities onboard as well as the assistance practices by the authorities towards the small-scale fishers in cases of emergencies during operations at sea or during natural disasters.

58. The representative from FAO/RAP commented that in the context of the capacity building through the UN body such as IMO and ILO, SEAFDEC should also focus on the labor conditions in fisheries and aquaculture based on global norms and safety aspects of the operations in accordance with the ILO regulations.

6.2 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020: Fish for the People 2020

59. The Council took note of the progress in the preparatory works of the Conference which is tentatively scheduled from 13 to 17 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand hosted by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. After the establishment of the Organizing Committee, Technical Sub-Committee and Administrative Sub-Committee, several aspects proceeding to the preparatory processes have been developed through a series of meetings. The results included the scope, framework, organizational structure, work plan and also the themes and sub-themes of the Conference (**Annex 12**).

60. As part of the preparatory work for the Conference, the Council was informed that AQD has already conducted in March 2010 the RTC on Sustainable Aquaculture in Southeast Asia Towards 2020. Moreover, MFRD also planned to conduct the RTC on Post Harvest and Safety of Fish and Fisheries Products in July 2010.

61. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Council on the progress of the preparation of the Conference which includes the support by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) and Senior Officials' Meeting of AMAF Plus Three (SOM-AMAF+3). He added that the request of SEAFDEC for possible funding support for 5 participants each from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) countries is under consideration. Moreover, the ASEAN through the JAIF (Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund) is also considering the possibility of providing funding support for three consultants for the preparation and consolidation of technical inputs for the Conference. The total amount for the two requests could be about USD 73,000. He also suggested the need to engage various stakeholders in the preparatory works and the Conference proper. In this regard, considerations should be made to include the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs) during the selection of participants in the technical panels to ensure that the ASEAN community would be represented during the Conference. Such conditions should be included in the Executive Summary to be submitted to the ASWGFⁱ and the progress of preparation of the Conference to the next Special SOM-31st AMAF.

62. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that as the host for the Conference, it is pleased to work closely with SEAFDEC in making this Conference possible, and that the Government of Thailand looks forward to working hand-in-hand with the SEAFDEC Member Countries and related agencies in the region. She also informed the meeting that as for the participation at the Ministerial Meeting by the Member Countries, the Government of Thailand will assume the local cost for the Ministers of the Member Countries including accommodation. However, she also pointed out that the Member Countries should shoulder the expenses for the SOM.

63. In a related development, the Council Director for Thailand expressed her apprehension on the difficulties of conducting the trade fair and exhibition parallel with the Conference considering the possible minimum involvement of the private sector in the event. In this regard, the Council Director for Vietnam suggested that information dissemination on the Conference should be intensified in order to maximize the participation of private sector in the trade fair and exhibition.

64. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat suggested that the details and the nature of the exhibit as well as the extent of participation of the private sector in the exhibition should be finalized for immediate dissemination. He added that two groups have

already indicated interest in participating in the exhibition, *i.e.* the US-ASEAN Business Council and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

65. Moreover, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, while presenting possible considerations also suggested that publicity and awareness-raising should be enhanced at the country level. In addition, he also hinted that the SEAFDEC Council Directors could seek support from each Member Country's collaborative partners to provide inputs to the Conference, including support for the national participants to the Conference.

6.3 Promotion of One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP) System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region

66. The Council took note of the FOVOP initiative based on the outcomes and achievements in the implementation of the project on the Promotion of "One Village, One Fisheries Products" System to Improve the Livelihood of the Fisheries Communities in the ASEAN Region or FOVOP. In addition, the Council supported the "Regional Guidelines for the Promotion of FOVOP in the ASEAN Region" which serves as a basis for the Regional Policy Planning and Cooperation in the future (**Annex 13**).

67. The Council also noted that the Regional Guidelines and the Policy Brief which will be submitted to the Council for endorsement, through referendum by the end of April 2010, would be further submitted to the ASEAN at the 18th ASWGF_i for endorsement and for further implementation in the ASEAN region.

68. The Council Director for Vietnam supported the implementation of the FOVOP as it has promoted strategies for poverty reduction and maximization of the involvement of women's groups in the economic activities in fishing communities. He added that the Regional Guidelines should be adapted at the national level to improve fisheries livelihood in fishing communities. In this connection, he suggested that SEAFDEC should continue to support the Member Countries to ensure the effective implementation of the Guidelines.

69. While supporting the implementation of FOVOP in the Southeast Asian Region, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Council that FOVOP is one of the flagship programs in fisheries that would contribute to the improvement of rural economy. He added that implementation of FOVOP would address not only fisheries but also cut-across policy on agriculture and other relevant issues such as those undertaken by SMEs. In this connection, FOVOP engagement in ASEAN relevant bodies (*i.e.* ASEAN Working Group on Agricultural Cooperatives, ASEAN Committee on SME Development) should be encouraged. With the support given by the Council, he informed the Meeting on the possibility of further support including that of the ASEAN Foundation to ensure the continued momentum of the activities on the promotion of FOVOP in the region after the project implementation has already ended.

6.4 Human Resources Development (HRD) Gaps and Requirements for the SEAFDEC Member Countries

70. The Council took note of the preliminary results of the questionnaire survey of the existing human resources expertise in the SEAFDEC Member Countries, which would be used as a guide for SEAFDEC to support the long-term human capacity development plan for

the Southeast Asian region. The results of the survey showed the need for intensified human resources development in the region as indicated in **Annex 14**.

71. During the discussion, the Council requested SEAFDEC to sustain its initiatives in fully utilizing the present networking with academic as well as research and development institutions in order to assist the Member Countries in developing their human resource capabilities. The Council also requested the Member Countries with available expertise that are required by the Member Countries, to provide special training to the other countries in specific fields or subjects, and that if necessary, SEAFDEC could conduct relevant special training programs by inviting experts outside of the region.

72. While commending SEAFDEC for the initiative in compiling the information on available human resources in the region, the Council Director for the Philippines regretted that the country has not yet provided the required data considering difficulties in collecting information from various agencies and related fisheries institutions all over the country. He added that since some expertise were not included in the questionnaire, the response of Philippines in the questionnaire could be limited and suggested that in the future data on expertise in emerging issues like climate change could also be included.

73. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the Council that there is close relationship between the development of fisheries and the interest of the young generation in fisheries, such trend was demonstrated in the 1980s when the development of shrimp aquaculture was intensive and the young generation became interested in the faculty of fisheries. However, when the country experienced downfall in shrimp aquaculture due to diseases, many universities faced the problem of getting students to be interested in fisheries. In order to increase the expertise in fisheries, he suggested that there is a need to promote the development of the fisheries industries in order to increase the expertise in fisheries in the region.

74. The Council Director for Malaysia suggested that in order to solve the problem related to the dearth of expertise in fisheries in the region, SEAFDEC was requested to continue the study on the future requirements of human resources development in the region and to provide more opportunities for the countries to participate in the training programs.

75. While commending SEAFDEC for its initiative in collecting information related to human resources in the region, the Council Director for Vietnam informed the Council that his country is being confronted with the problem of chemical residues in fisheries products and requested SEAFDEC to give more focus on aquatic animal health and fish diseases in order to improve the capacity building in the region.

76. The Council Director for Lao PDR suggested that the HRD program of SEAFDEC should also focus on freshwater aquaculture and inland fisheries management due to the lack of such expertise in the country. Considering that Lao PDR has limited faculty and budget, he requested SEAFDEC to conduct training course in aquaculture and inland fisheries management.

77. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Council that the HRD in fisheries in Myanmar depends on the fishery institutions of the country. He therefore suggested that SEAFDEC should also collect information on the number of marine fisheries universities in each country and also the number of graduates in fisheries, and identify the institutions and

areas of specialization that require enhancement which could be attained through the conduct of on-site training programs.

78. While supporting the suggestions made by the other Council Directors, the Council Director for Cambodia identified some HRD gaps in the region such as the inadequate number of skilled young scientists. In this connection, he requested SEAFDEC to consider enhancing the fisheries expertise in the region, specifically in the areas of aquaculture genetics, socio-economics, and aquaculture management, among others.

79. In response to the suggestions made by the Council Directors, SEAFDEC reiterated that the survey was envisaged to assess the current status of the human resources in the government sector which would be followed later with an assessment of the situation for the private sector. The Council was assured that if the HRD gap between the government and the private sector is wide, SEAFDEC will exert effort to diminish such gap by implementing relevant training programs in the region and minimize the need to avail of fisheries expertise outside of the Southeast Asian region.

80. While supporting the suggestions made by the other Council Directors, the Council Director for Myanmar added that the HRD activities of SEAFDEC should also consider the areas of aquatic animal genetics, stock assessment, ecosystem approach, and fisheries management.

81. The representative from FAO/RAP emphasized that the capability in the region gap is more prominent at the local level as a result of the decentralization policy and devolvement of management authorities to local authorities. Since no training at the local level has been developed to fill such gap, he suggested that SEAFDEC should take active role as a significant mobilizing force in HRD for the region.

82. While commending SEAFDEC for placing importance in HRD in fisheries, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat underscored the need for capacity development in both human and institutional aspects. In advancing capacity development, consideration should be made to both disciplines and conduct/delivery of capacity development in order to enhance capacity of the fisheries sector to cope with future challenges including the ASEAN Community Integration. With the view to promote capacity development in fisheries, he suggested that the Global Strategic Framework for Human Capacity Development developed by FAO, and the SEAFDEC HRD Strategies developed in 2004, should be taken into consideration. He also suggested that the cross-cutting nature of the issue on HRD should be discussed among a wide range of stakeholders during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on “Fish for the People 2020”, and the results should be incorporated in the Resolution and Plan of Action to be adopted at the Conference.

6.5 Information Collection and Sampling of Tuna Canneries in the Region

83. The Council Director for Japan requested SEAFDEC to consider implementing activities on data collection and sampling of tuna canneries in the region, considering the growing concern over the tuna stock status, particularly the big-eye tuna in the Western and Central Pacific areas, where the tuna catch data from purse seine fisheries is unavailable due to the nature of purse seine operations which catch large amount of tuna comprising multiple species. Since large amount of catch from purse seine operations are delivered directly to canneries, the members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

had adopted conservation measures using data collected from the tuna canneries. In this connection, Japan launched a study to collect information on the big-eye tuna catch starting in 2009 through the country's tuna canning industry. Considering that there are several important tuna canneries in the SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Council Director for Japan requested SEAFDEC and all Member Countries to take part in the data collection. This activity is envisaged to help reinforce the collaboration of SEAFDEC with the WCPFC and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), assist the countries in complying with the EU Regulation on Catch Certification Scheme, and ensure the stable development of tuna industry in the region. The proposal for information collection and sampling of tuna canneries in the region appears as **Annex 15**.

84. In the discussion, the Council supported in principle on the collection of information on big-eye tuna from the canneries in the Member Countries. However, since most of the tuna canneries in the region are operated by the private sector and tuna canneries have already existing data on tuna catch, the Council suggested that the Member Countries could collect the information from the respective countries' tuna canneries. Moreover, while the effort of WCPFC at present is focused on the big-eye tuna, the Council supported that other tuna species could also be included in this activity in the future.

85. The Council Director for Thailand expressed the view that since the tuna canneries in Thailand are operated by the private sector and some tuna canneries may already have species and sizing data on tuna catch, Thailand would consult with the private sector on their willingness to share the required data.

86. Moreover, the Council Director for the Philippines informed the Meeting that being a member of the WCPFC, the Philippines has established its National Tuna Industry Council which is tasked to also collect data and information on the country's tuna catch, and would provide the information required to SEAFDEC. Furthermore, the Council also suggested that the issue on data collection from tuna canneries could be raised during the Tuna Conference which will be held in May 2010 in Bangkok and encouraged the Member Countries to attend the Conference in order to be aware of the status of tuna fisheries in the region as well as the subsequent follow-up activities.

VII. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

7.1 Signing of the MOU between SEAFDEC and the Colombo Plan

87. The Council stood witness during the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SEAFDEC and the Colombo Plan which was held on 7 April 2010 during the 42nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The MOU, which is aimed at promoting human resource development and capacity building of the developing member countries of the Colombo Plan, is attached as **Annex 16**.

88. The Council was informed that this is not the first time that SEAFDEC has entered into an agreement with the Colombo Plan since in the past, short-term collaborative arrangements with the Colombo Plan were made on project basis particularly focusing on human resource development through South-South Technical Cooperation. Under such arrangements, the Colombo Plan supported the participation of representatives from the developing member countries of the Colombo Plan in the various training activities

conducted by the SEAFDEC Departments. The new MOU is therefore envisaged to strengthen the collaboration between SEAFDEC and the Colombo Plan in a long-term basis, in order that the developing countries of the Colombo Plan which include the ASEAN countries would attain further economic and social development through HRD in sustainable fisheries.

7.2 Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations

89. The Council acknowledged the collaborative activities between SEAFDEC and other regional/international organizations as well as the non-member governments in 2009. This include the collaboration with the organizations within the Southeast Asian region, namely: the ASEAN, ASEAN Foundation, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), National Fisheries University of Japan (NFU), the Vocational Education Commission of Thailand, and the WorldFish Center, as well as organizations outside the region such as the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Coordinating Working Parties on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Evonik degussa GmbH (EVONIK) Germany, FAO, Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS), Novus International Incorporated (USA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the United Soybean Board (USA).

90. The Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan, Dató Patricia Yoon Moi Chia expressed her appreciation to SEAFDEC and the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of Lao PDR for extending the invitation to Colombo Plan to participate in the 42nd SEAFDEC Council Meeting. She underlined the similarity of SEAFDEC and the Colombo Plan both being inter-governmental organizations, and governed by the Council of Directors from the Member Countries. While stressing that the MOU which was signed at this Meeting would provide a window for the promotion of technical cooperation towards sustainable fisheries development in the region, she looked forward to a strong cooperation that would ensure the contribution of fisheries towards the economic development of the region. Her Statement appears as **Annex 17**.

91. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn thanked the Government of Lao PDR for the arrangements and to SEAFDEC for extending the invitation to the ASEAN Secretariat to attend the 42nd SEAFDEC Council Meeting. While congratulating SEAFDEC for its achievements during the past year which has significantly contributed to development and management of fisheries in the region, he highlighted on the attempts of the ASEAN in building the ASEAN Community by the year 2015, of which fisheries is one of the priority sectors contributing to the community building. Recognizing that the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership has served as a very important channel to evolve the cooperation between the two organizations, he also outlined in his statement (**Annex 18**) the four areas that need particular consideration by the Council such as: i) food security and the impacts climate change where SEAFDEC is encouraged to continue implementing activities in line with the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the ASEAN Multi-sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security; ii) the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference “Fish for the People 2020”, of which SEAFDEC should enhance its role in bringing the existing expertise of other developing partners for the preparatory work and during the Conference, and strengthen the cooperation between ASEAN and the plus three countries, namely China, Japan and Korea; iii) the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) which serves as a platform for conservation and management of fisheries in the region where the other collaborating partners such as

SEAFDEC and FAO should be actively involved particularly in future AFCF meetings in order to bring broad-based knowledge and expertise to map out strategies and joint approaches in addressing issues like illegal fishing, managing fishing capacity, human capacity development, information and knowledge sharing; and iv) the growing importance of aquaculture where there are two strategic issues that would require full support from SEAFDEC in advancing the development of aquaculture in the region, such as on the prudent use of veterinary drugs in aquaculture and safety assurance systems for aquaculture products, and on the development of ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices as a regional trade standard with a regional certification system.

92. The representative from FAO/RAP, Dr. Simon Funge-Smith expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for extending invitation to FAO for this Meeting, and to the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, the Government of Lao PDR, and the Luang Prabang provincial government, for the arrangement and hospitality during the Meeting. He acknowledged the important emerging roles of SEAFDEC in developing consensus among the SEAFDEC Member Countries, and coming up with policy for sustainable development and management of fisheries for the region. He then highlighted the areas of mutual interest between SEAFDEC and FAO that include those on combating IUU Fishing and aquaculture certification; as well as the areas with potential future collaboration, such as those on capacity building and technical cooperation, harmonization of fishery statistics, safety at sea, improving coastal community, among others. He informed the Meeting that FAO is also looking forward to cooperate with SEAFDEC in the preparation and conduct of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference “Fish for the People 2020” in 2011. He then informed the Meeting on the FAO/APFIC events in 2010 which would greatly benefit from the regional inputs of SEAFDEC. He added that the APFIC 3rd Regional Consultative Forum in September 2010 hosted by Republic of Korea would be convened in association with the EU-/ASEM forum on trade and investment, making it an excellent opportunity for SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member Countries to present their national and regional perspectives. The other initiative is the regional consultation on the development of a specific global instrument for small-scale fisheries in October 2010 in Bangkok, which is a follow-up action requested by the FAO member countries during the last Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. This consultation is intended to review the need for, and possible form of, a global instrument such as an international plan of action or specific agreement that could specifically address the unique characteristics of small-scale fisheries. His statement appears as **Annex 19**.

93. The representative from the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat, Mr. Xaypladeth Choulamany expressed his sincere thanks to SEAFDEC for inviting the MRC Secretariat to the 42nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Luang Prabang. He mentioned that the MRC, which consists of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, was established in 1995, to promote sustainable development and cooperation among the countries of the Lower Mekong Basin. Specifically, most of the objectives of the MRC Fisheries Programme have been complementary to those of the national governments and other agencies in the region particularly in trying to understand better the size and value of the capture fisheries, raising awareness of the need to mitigate the impacts of water resources development, and in promoting management of reservoir and river fisheries. He also informed the Meeting that the First MRC Summit which was held on the 5 April 2010 in Hua Hin, Thailand came up with the Hua Hin Declaration re-affirming the strong and continued commitment of the four MRC Countries to cooperate and promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation and management of the Mekong Basin’s water and related resources. His Statement appears as **Annex 20**.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

8.1 Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-Added Products

94. The Council Director for Singapore informed the Council that Singapore through the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) would provide funding support for the implementation of the program on Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-Added Products (**Annex 21**) in Lao PDR in 2011, Myanmar in 2012 and Vietnam in 2013, in order to transfer the technologies on the development of value-added products from freshwater fish species in these countries for the improved livelihood of the fishery communities as well as for export.

95. The Council Directors for Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam expressed their appreciation to Singapore for implementing the said program. However, the Council Director for Vietnam requested Singapore to reconsider moving earlier the schedule for the implementation of activities in Vietnam. Moreover, the Council Director for Indonesia also requested Singapore to consider implementing similar program in Indonesia considering that the country has potentials for the production of freshwater fishery products for export. In this regard, the Council Director for Singapore assured the Council that the possibility of accommodating such requests in the program would be looked into considering the practicality and availability of resources.

IX. CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE DIRECTIONS REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL

96. During the closed session discussion among the SEAFDEC Council Directors, priority areas that should be taken into consideration in the formulation and implementation of future activities of SEAFDEC were identified as shown in **Annex 22**.

X. SEAFDEC FUTURE OPERATION

10.1 Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) and Its Status

97. The Council took note of the current status and usage of the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) for SEAFDEC operations. In following up with the request of the SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2008 which agreed that the level of MRC should be reviewed every 5 years, the Council was also informed on the issues important for the sustainable operation of SEAFDEC such as the sustainable operation and maximum utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, sustainability of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network, and sustainability of the SEAFDEC Special Publication "Fish for the People" as well as other areas of activities that the Council may request (**Annex 23**). In this connection, the Council also emphasized that prudent consideration should be made on the use of the MRC.

98. In the discussion, the Council agreed in principle with the adjustment of the MRC starting in 2012 and onwards, and requested the Secretariat to put up a more detailed proposal on the activities and estimated expenditures. This preliminary proposal should be made available by November 2010 in order to allow the Member Countries to visualize the possible scenarios on the MRC in 2012 and prepare the sufficient amount of budget for this purpose. The proposal would also be discussed during the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011.

10.2 Implementation of SEAFDEC Information Activities and Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility

99. The Council took note of the implementation of the information activities conducted by the Secretariat and Departments for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication in 2009 (**Annex 24**). In this regard, the Council Director for the Philippines commended SEAFDEC for producing information materials which are very important in supporting the development of fisheries-related policies of the Member Countries. While recognizing that the materials disseminated to fisheries universities and colleges had been very useful as these serve as teaching materials and research references, he therefore supported the further implementation of the information-related activities of SEAFDEC in the future.

100. While recognizing that the Conference “Fish for the People 2020” would be held in 2011, the Council Director for Lao PDR expressed that such event would be an opportunity for SEAFDEC to showcase its past activities and achievements to a wide audience as well as to policy makers. In this regard, the Council was informed that SEAFDEC is preparing information materials such as audiovisual materials summarizing the achievements of SEAFDEC during the past years, and poster exhibitions as well as other materials for this purpose.

10.3 Operation of the Training and Research Vessels

101. The Council took note of the status on the use of the Research and Training Vessels, the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 granted by the Government of Japan, and approved the proposed operation plan for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 (**Annex 25**). In this regard, the Council Director for Malaysia informed the Meeting that due to budgetary constraints, the number of days for the conduct of fishery resources survey for Malaysia in 2010 had been reduced from 60 to 45 days. In this regard, Malaysia would further communicate with TD to finalize the operation plan of the vessel.

102. With a view of maximizing the future utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the Council Director for Thailand suggested the possibility of utilizing the vessel to support the fishery resources surveys under the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project, which involves several SEAFDEC Member Countries, *i.e.* Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar and Indonesia. Moreover, the Council Director for the Philippines also suggested that the vessel should be mobilized for activities related to the collection of information on climate change and its impacts to fisheries not only in coastal areas but also in the deep waters of the region, the establishment of fisheries refugia in the region, the collection of fish larvae, and the monitoring of data on by-catch from trawl fisheries. In addition, the Council Director for Myanmar while recognizing that the cost of operating the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is high limiting the use of the vessel by the CMV countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam), suggested that the use of the vessel as well as its experts and crew should also be maximized by the other collaborating partners of SEAFDEC such as FAO and UNEP/GEF.

103. The Council Director for Japan emphasized that the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was provided by the Government of Japan, which is subjected to be scrutinized by the Board of Audit of Japan. Considering that the Board of Audit of Japan has become more stringent in their audit processes, if the utilization of the SEAFDEC 2 is very low, questions may arise on the justification of Japan in providing funding support to SEAFDEC. In this regard, the Council Director for Japan encouraged SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to fully utilize the M.V.

SEAFDEC 2. He also added that the use of the vessel for the conduct of fishery resources surveys through the projects implemented by other organizations could be considered provided that such activities are under the SEAFDEC collaborative arrangements with such partner organizations.

104. For the future utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 by the Member Countries, the Council Director for Vietnam informed the Meeting that his Agency would try to request his Government to provide the budget for utilizing the vessel in 2011. In addition, the Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting that Indonesia's Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research has recently acquired a new vessel therefore no request has been made for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2010.

10.4 Transfer of MFRD Assets to AVA of Singapore

105. The Council took note of the request made by the Council Director for Singapore to transfer the assets of MFRD which includes post-harvest equipment and library materials, to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of the Government of Singapore. This is in order to allow AVA to absorb the repair and maintenance costs for these equipment as well as the required accessories under the AVA budget. Furthermore, the Council was assured that although these assets are transferred to the AVA, the equipment and library materials could still be used for the activities of MFRD in the future.

106. The Council supported in principle the transfer of the assets of MFRD to the AVA of Singapore. In this regard, the Chief of the MFRD programs was requested to proceed with the normal procedure to dispose of such assets in accordance with the Financial Regulations of SEAFDEC, and subsequently transfer the assets to AVA.

XI. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

11.1 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and other Organizations

107. The Council endorsed the establishment of collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), EVONIK Germany, Fisheries Research Agency of Japan, FAO, National Fisheries University of Japan (NFU), National Agriculture Training Council (Malaysia), Novus International Incorporated (USA), Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT), United Soybean Board (USA) and the WorldFish Center (**Annex 26**).

XII. FINANCIAL MATTERS

12.1 Adoption of Auditor's Financial Report for the Year 2008

108. In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2 (ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council endorsed the audited consolidated financial statement of the Center for the year ended 31 December 2008 including that of the Secretariat and the four Departments for the Year 2008 (**Annex 27**) as audited by the Center's official auditors.

12.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2009, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2010

109. The Council took note of the Un-audited Consolidated Financial Report for the Year 2009 (**Annex 28**), which comprised the Un-audited Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2009, the Un-audited Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year 2009, and the Un-audited Fund Balance as of 31 December 2009.

110. The Council also noted the Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2010 (**Annex 29**), which includes the MRC in 2010 from the Member Countries and contributions from the Fisheries Agency of Japan for the Japanese Trust Fund program as well as other international organizations.

12.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements for the Year 2011

111. The Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2011 (**Annex 30**) and requested the Secretariat and the Departments to finalize the actual budget for submission to the Member Countries for funding support.

XIII. CONCLUDING MATTERS

13.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report and Press Statement

112. The Council adopted the Report of the Forty-Second Meeting of the Council and the Press Statement on the results of the Meeting as shown in **Annex 31**, on 9 April 2010.

13.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-Third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

113. In considering the date and venue of the Forty-Third Meeting of the Council, the Council Director for Malaysia informed the Council that the Government of Malaysia would accept the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in Malaysia in 2011.

114. The Council expressed its appreciation of the offer of Malaysia to host the next Council Meeting in Malaysia, and requested the Secretary-General to discuss this further with the Council Director for Malaysia for the finalization of the exact date and venue of the next meeting.

13.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

115. The Council Director for Myanmar, Mr. Khin Ko Lay, on behalf of the Council Directors expressed his appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR and the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as the Government of Luang Prabang, for the hosting arrangements for this Forty-Second Meeting of the Council. He also congratulated the Chairperson of the Meeting for the successful conduct of the Meeting, and looked forward to the enhanced collaboration of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries as well as with collaborating partners, for the conduct of activities in line with the priority and directives as guided by the Council. He emphasized that the CLMV countries in particular still need support especially in enhancing food security and improving the livelihood of people, and also looked forward to the support from SEAFDEC on this

aspect. He then expressed his appreciation to the Secretariat of the Meeting for all the support which has facilitated the smooth conduct of this Meeting. His Remarks appears as **Annex 32**.

XIV. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

116. The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the Council Directors and the representatives from regional and international organizations as well as Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Chiefs of Departments for the support accorded him during the Meeting. Since it was his first experience to serve as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, he also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Secretariat of the Meeting for their hard work which resulted in the success of the Meeting. As he has already started his task as the Chairperson of the Council until 2011, he reiterated his request to the Council for cooperation and assistance especially during the forthcoming year, to make the implementation of the programs and activities even more successful in order that the contribution of fisheries to food security in the region would be strengthened. With that note, he declared the Forty-Second Meeting of the Council closed. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 33**.