

REPORT OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC REGIONAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES-RELATED ISSUES 2011

18 – 20 January 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-related Issues (2011) was organized by the SEAFDEC Secretariat from 18 to 20 January 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand.

2. The Consultation was attended by national delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Consultation was also attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

II. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

3. The SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, *Mr. Kenji Matsumoto* welcomed the participants to the Consultation, and informed the Consultation on the initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC since 1999 in providing platforms for regional discussion of international fisheries-related issues that could have implications to fisheries development of the region. He reiterated the objectives of the Consultation which are to review and discuss the identified important international fisheries-related issues that cover wide range of fishery aspects as well as policy recommendations on each respective issue to be reflected by the Member Countries at relevant regional/international fora in order to safeguard the priorities and interests of the countries in the region.

4. He also emphasized that the outcomes from this Consultation would be submitted to the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the 19th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF), for consideration and endorsement, and then declared the Consultation open. His Opening Remarks appear as **Annex 2**.

III. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSULTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. A brief background on the roles and activities of SEAFDEC in facilitating discussions on international fisheries-related issues including trade-related issues, under the SEAFDEC Program on “Fish Trade and Environment (1999-2004)” and “Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade-related Issues (2005 onwards)” was presented by *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. He informed the Consultation that such activities have fulfilled the SEAFDEC modality for regional cooperation in addressing international fisheries-related issues which form part of the regional collaborative mechanism under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Plan (FCG/ASSP) framework. He also elaborated on the envisaged outcomes and other relevant details of the Consultation as shown in the prospectus which appears as **Annex 3**. After noting the provisional agenda and arrangements, the Consultation adopted the agenda as shown in **Annex 4**.

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ON ISSUES OF REGIONAL CONCERN

4.1 Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification

6. The representative from SEAFDEC Training Department, *Ms. Panitnard Taladon* presented a review of the issues related to the FAO Aquaculture Certification (**Annex 5**) focusing on the status of the draft technical guidelines and the special requirements of developing countries and countries in transition to adopt and implement such Technical Guidelines. The Consultation took note of the process of development of the Technical Guidelines specifically on what transpired during the Fifth Session of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, where Argentina and Brazil expressed their reservations on the adoption of the Technical Guidelines.

7. The representative from Thailand informed the Consultation that the Technical Guidelines had already been adopted at the Fifth Session of the FAO COFI Sub-committee on Aquaculture in October 2010. Since the next step would be the approval by the 29th Meeting of the Committee on Fisheries of FAO, she encouraged the ASEAN countries to support the adoption of the Technical Guidelines during the forthcoming COFI meeting. While taking note of Brazil's concern on animal welfare which mostly involves transport and production of aquatic animals, the representative from Thailand also pointed out the concern of Brazil on private standards which mentioned unclear situation on the advantages/disadvantages between public and private standard schemes. Nevertheless, Thailand articulated that the use of the guidelines will help the public and private standards work in the same direction, reducing pressure on non-tariff barriers. Along the same aspect, the representative from Vietnam informed the Consultation that the issue on animal health and welfare which emphasized on fish seeds and stocking in aquaculture that could bring about diseases, would make it difficult for the countries in the region to comply with the OIE standards.

8. The Consultation however, suggested that in order to avoid duplication of efforts, issues on the social aspects under the Technical Guidelines should not be a concern to the countries in the region since most of the issues would be discussed during the dialogues of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Nevertheless, as requested by the Consultation, Thailand prepared a draft generic statement (**Annex 6**) indicating the country's support to the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification which could also serve as guide for the other ASEAN countries during the forthcoming 29th COFI meeting.

9. While presenting the draft generic statement, the representative from Thailand informed the Consultation that such statement was based on the outcome of the Fifth Session of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture held in Phuket, Thailand from 27 September to 1 October 2010. She added that the statement would be further refined and circulated to the Member Countries to be used as reference in supporting the Guidelines during the forthcoming COFI meeting. While agreeing in principle with the draft statement, the representative from Vietnam expressed apprehension on the possible increased production costs resulting from the adoption of the Guidelines and also suggested that under environmental integrity, considerations should be made on the effect of the creation of trade barriers when exporting aquaculture products. She also reiterated that the Member Countries should seek possible assistance from FAO and developed countries in the adoption of the Guidelines. The representative from Thailand concurred with the suggestions made by the Consultation, and requested the countries to provide comments on the draft statement as soon as possible for finalization by Thailand and encouraged the countries to support the final statement of Thailand during the COFI meeting which will be held from 31 January to 4 February 2011.

4.2 Measures Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

10. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* introduced the various measures that are aimed at combating IUU fishing in the region that include Port State Measures, Flag State Measures, Market-based Measures, and Global Record of Fishing Vessels as

shown in **Annex 7**. Although Flag State Measures was not discussed during this Consultation, its importance was however noted.

4.2.1 *FAO Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing*

11. A representative from the SEAFDEC Training Department, *Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich* presented a review of the FAO Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures (PSM) for Combating IUU Fishing as well as some recommendations related to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing as shown in **Annex 8**. The Consultation commented that although the PSM Agreement had been discussed for many years, only one ASEAN country has ratified the instrument, and thus, reiterated the need to clarify the terminologies as well as the legal implications of the provisions under the Agreement and the legal obligations of the countries in the PSM, and to conduct capacity building for port inspectors. In this regard, SEAFDEC was also requested to convene a forum to discuss the concerns that impede the compliance of the countries to the PSM agreement and to share experiences on the implication of the PSM Agreement inviting FAO to shed light on the Agreement, and that Indonesia which had already ratified the PSM Agreement was requested to present the country's experiences related to PSM during the said forum.

12. While expressing the need to establish a mechanism for sharing of information among the Member Countries as required in the PSM Agreement, the representative from Vietnam suggested that focal points be established by SEAFDEC to support and facilitate such information exchange among the countries, considering that information and data collection systems in the countries vary.

13. In addition, the Consultation requested SEAFDEC to come up with the list of issues to be addressed especially the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the legally-binding instrument, which should be raised as common position of the region and reflected at international fora. The Consultation also took note of the existing SEAFDEC programs that aim to combat IUU fishing, including the project being supported by the Swedish International Cooperation Agency (SIDA) focusing on sub-regional fisheries management and the new programs starting in 2011 under the Japanese Trust Fund Program of SEAFDEC which also emphasize on the need to combat IUU fishing in the region. In this regard, the Consultation sought the continued support of SEAFDEC with regards to the implementation of the PSM.

14. The Consultation also noted the concern on the need for capacity building for port inspectors particularly on the obligations under the PSM Agreement as well on monitoring procedures and requirements, under the purview of fisheries-related agencies. Furthermore, for the designation of aforementioned focal points, other sectors such as marine departments and port authorities which are involved in such activities should also be taken into consideration since the PSM Agreement covers all kinds of fishing vessels.

- Catch Certification/Catch Documentation Scheme

15. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* presented the background of the catch certification and catch documentation schemes and other related types of schemes, as shown in **Annex 9**. The Consultation took note of the recommendation made at the 13th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership in November 2010 on the need to develop a common catch documentation scheme for the region that complies with those of the RFMOs' and EC's requirements, in order to facilitate intra-regional trade of fish and fishery products. However, the Consultation suggested that in the development and implementation of such common scheme, caution should be made as such scheme could adversely affect regional trade, particularly for countries that could not comply with the requirements of such scheme.

16. The representative of Thailand therefore suggested that SEAFDEC should come up with the list of common issues in the region as well as opportunities and lessons learned related to the catch certification scheme to be shared among the ASEAN Member Countries.

17. The representative from Malaysia informed the Consultation that the country is developing an electronic-based catch documentation system with assistance from EU. In this connection, the Consultation encouraged the countries to learn lessons from the experience of Malaysia.

18. While noting that the abovementioned schemes could affect the intra-regional trade, the representative from Thailand suggested that countries should come up with list of problems that affect small-scale fisheries to be discussed with the EU Auditors during their visit to the region, considering that the EU may have considered only the concerns from RFMOs and not from the ASEAN. In addition, the countries should also learn lessons from the catch documentation scheme under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act imposed by the US markets.

4.2.2 *Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels*

19. A representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Ms. Halimah Mohamed* presented the background of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels (**Annex 10**). The Consultation noted the recommendations provided by the Technical Consultation (TC) in Rome, Italy in November 2010, to “Identify a Structure and Strategy for the Development and Implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels”.

20. While raising raised the concern about the fishing vessels operating in the waters under the flag states’ national jurisdiction in the Global Record (GR), the representative from Thailand suggested that such vessels should be excluded from the GR because inclusion would be difficult for countries in the region to comply with, in accordance with the requirements of the GR. She also urged that such concern should be raised during the upcoming COFI meeting in order that the GR could be further adjusted.

21. As regards the use of unique vessel identifier (UVI), the representative from Thailand noted such complex requirement in complying with the GR and suggested that capacity building be conducted not only for fisheries agencies but also for agencies involved in vessel registration. In addition, since the UVI may not be applicable for small-scale vessels, a review of the parameters in the GR should be conducted for possible adjustment. However, since SEAFDEC has already initiated vessel record and inventory, the Consultation suggested that SEAFDEC should share the information it has so far compiled with FAO for possible consideration and as basis for the abovementioned proposed adjustment.

22. Moreover, the Consultation while viewing the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels as a global top-down approach and thus may not be applicable and practical, supported the efforts of SEAFDEC to continue collecting information on fishing record using the bottom-up approach by streamlining the fishing record systems of the countries in the region. In this regard, countries that have not submitted their respective fishing record forms were urged to submit such accomplished forms to SEAFDEC in order that the region can work towards along the direction of the GR.

23. In order to maximize the functions of the focal points mentioned earlier, the representative from Vietnam suggested that the said focal points should be tasked to cover all the activities relevant to the various measures that are aimed at combating IUU fishing in the region that include Port State Measures, Flag State Measures, Market-based Measures, and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.

4.2.3 *Quality and Safety Issues in International Trade*

24. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Dr. Jariya Kankamnerd* made a brief presentation on the review of quality and safety issues in international trade (**Annex 11**) which includes food quality, safety control and food security as well as the food quality and safety control in food trade. The Consultation considered the issues underlying the causes of unsatisfactory conditions such as complexity of market systems, as well as interaction and cooperation between the industry and government on food safety control matters.

25. The Consultation acknowledged the necessity for countries exporting fish and fisheries products to meet the quality and safety standards/requirements imposed by importing countries, and recommended that countries in the region should collaborate with each other in order to have a strong common voice in relevant international fora as well as in the international trade of fish and fisheries products.

26. While acknowledging the importance of scientific evidence in complying with international food safety standards, the Consultation expressed concerns that in some cases it would be difficult for ASEAN countries to comply with the standards imposed by importing countries such as the zero tolerance limit which could be beyond the capacity of the instruments available in the market and sold at reasonable cost, to detect.

4.2.4 *Small-scale Fisheries*

27. The representative from the SEAFDEC Training Department, *Dr. Phattareeya Suanratanachai* presented the issues related to small-scale fisheries both at regional and international levels (**Annex 12**). The Consultation took note of the results of the Global Conference on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development held in October 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand which called for the need to examine various options and requirements of the international instrument on small-scale fisheries as well as the development of dedicated global program on small-scale fisheries.

28. The Consultation expressed the concern that issues on good practices in small-scale fisheries might be discussed at the forthcoming 29th FAO/COFI in January 2011, such as good governance and rights-based approach, application of ecosystem approach to fisheries, disaster risk management (DRM), and climate change adaptation (CCA) in the small-scale fisheries sector. In addition, while emphasizing that the establishment of the voluntary global instrument for small-scale fisheries would lead to the development of the plan of action to be implemented by FAO member countries, the representative from Thailand suggested that relevant concerns such as labor force and international trade-related issues that have impact on small-scale fisheries should be considered and discussed by the ASEAN countries to be able to support the relevant issues on small-scale fisheries during the forthcoming COFI meeting.

29. The representative from Malaysia while supporting the need to establish the voluntary global instrument for small-scale fisheries suggested that issues listed in the Plan of Action should be included in the voluntary global instrument to raise the profile of small-scale fisheries in the region. He also suggested that the ASEAN countries should have a strong voice during the up-coming COFI meeting and support the establishment of the voluntary global instrument.

30. While considering that disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation in the small-scale fisheries sector would be discussed during the forthcoming COFI meeting, the representative from Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to collaborate with FAO and assist the small-scale fisheries of Member Countries in mitigating/adapting to climate change by promoting for example, safety at sea program and the ecosystem approach to small-scale fisheries. In this connection, the

representative from Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC should embark on new programs on the impact of climate change to small-scale fisheries considering that the current observed sea level rising and changes in sea surface temperature have already affected the livelihood of small-scale fishers. In this connection, SEAFDEC informed the Consultation that the results of the COFI meeting would be able to help SEAFDEC in monitoring the relevant issues and in strengthening its support to the Member Countries.

4.2.5 Fisheries Subsidies

31. The Consultation took note of the Progress of the WTO Negotiations and Regional Policy Directives and Common Positions on Fisheries Subsidies (**Annex 13**) as well as the update and review of fisheries subsidies negotiations at the WTO (**Annex 14**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat *Dr. Jariya Kankamnerd* and *Mr. Abdul Rahman Abdul Wahab* from Malaysia, respectively. The Consultation also noted the discussion processes undertaken by WTO which had been changed from open-ended discussion to plurilateral format with limited number of participants by invitation only, and thus far, have not included the ASEAN countries. Nonetheless, the Consultation was also informed that such plurilateral meetings are usually followed by open-ended transparency sessions where the Chair reports the matters discussed during the plurilateral meetings.

32. In addition, the Consultation was informed that the pace of the aforementioned meetings would be intensified since the target is to come up with a revised Chair's Text by the first quarter of 2011. Moreover, the Consultation also noted that the Chair has appointed the Friends of the Chair (FOC) to take care of issues on fisheries management and that the FOC would consult with the WTO members on the technical inputs on fisheries management. In this regard, the ASEAN countries were encouraged to contact the FOC by email or telephone for the scheduled consultations on fisheries management in the region.

33. The fisheries subsidies proposals from Australia, Korea and Brazil were also briefly introduced to the Consultation, and that Malaysia was inclined to support Brazil's proposal on the Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) provisions considering its flexibilities to the developing countries. Specifically, Malaysia made a textual proposal as amendment to the Chair's 2007 Text with respect to the exception of food safety related subsidies for fishing vessels in Article II on General Exceptions. Since the said textual proposal would be discussed during the next round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, the representative from Malaysia encouraged the other ASEAN countries to consider the textual proposal of Malaysia and for the countries become co-sponsors of the said textual proposal. In addition, the ASEAN Member Countries were also encouraged to communicate with their respective permanent missions to WTO in Geneva to indicate their respective countries' support to the textual proposal.

34. While supporting the proposal developed by Malaysia, the representative from Thailand suggested that the textual proposal of Malaysia could be an ASEAN text. While reiterating that during the WTO negotiations in the past, only representatives from trade or from foreign affairs with inadequate information on the difficulties of implementing fisheries subsidies usually attended the negotiation rounds, he requested SEAFDEC to compile the region's comprehensive position not only in terms of generic interventions but which should be concrete and deal with the issues spelled out in the draft Chair's Text, and that SEAFDEC should also compile the common positions of the member countries on fisheries subsidies through the questionnaire provided at this Consultation (**Annex 15**). While supporting the suggestion of Thailand as well as the textual proposal of Malaysia, the representative from the Philippines suggested that all countries should be informed on the updated information on fisheries subsidies, the modalities of which should be compiled by SEAFDEC and recirculated to the Member Countries.

35. In a related development, the representative from Vietnam suggested that SEAFDEC Member Countries should strengthen the representation of the ASEAN in the WTO negotiation rounds through

the establishment of focal points tasked to address issues on international fisheries-related concerns and especially facilitate the exchange of information on fisheries subsidies. While reiterating the need of the countries' respective permanent missions to WTO in Geneva for inputs to be used during the WTO negotiation rounds, the representative from Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC should establish a working group on fisheries subsidies and work closely with Malaysia as well as facilitate communications and compile comments from member countries on the Chair's Text to be presented during the WTO negotiation rounds.

36. In this regard, the representative from the Philippines suggested that the textual proposal should be circulated to the other ASEAN countries to get their comments which could be used as inputs in the compilation of the issues by SEAFDEC. In response to such requirement, SEAFDEC would compile the comments from Member Countries on fisheries subsidies that could be used during the negotiation rounds of the WTO.

37. Furthermore, the representative from Thailand also requested SEAFDEC to compile fisheries management practices in the region and requested Malaysia to coordinate with the "Friends of the Chair" on behalf of the ASEAN countries and provide the compiled brief fisheries management practices in the region, while at the same time, the countries could also directly convey the compiled fisheries management practices with their respective permanent missions to WTO in Geneva.

4.2.6 CITES Issues

38. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Dr. Jariya Kankamnerd* presented a review of the issues related to endangered aquatic species under the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) resulting from the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) as shown in **Annex 16**. The Consultation while noting that since the membership of the ASEAN Expert Group (AEG) on CITES comprise mostly environmentalists while fisheries issues are discussed during the CITES-COP, suggested that fisheries agencies from members countries should also be involved in the AEG-CITES and international fora related to CITES, in order that issues related to fisheries could be properly addressed during the CITES-COP. In this connection, the representative from Brunei Darussalam informed the Consultation that the forthcoming meeting of the AEG-CITES would be organized in Brunei Darussalam from 8 to 10 February 2011, and encouraged the other countries especially their respective agencies responsible for fisheries to send representatives to participate in the said meeting.

39. In addition, the Consultation noted that many aquatic animals of economically importance to the region have been increasingly listed in the Appendices of CITES, *e.g.* sharks, humphead wrasse, sea horse, and tuna. However, since lack of scientific data had been noted especially on shark production and identification of shark species, the Consultation suggested that the Member Countries should improve their statistical data and information collection and compilation in order to mitigate the impact of the listing of aquatic species in the CITES Appendices to the trade of such aquatic species in the region. The Consultation also expressed the apprehension that the proposed listing of sharks and other commercial aquatic species could be raised again during the next CITES-COP16.

40. In line with the need for improving data collection and compilation, the Consultation suggested that there should be very good cooperation among fisheries and environmental agencies in the region in order to come up with good system for collecting data especially on shark production and species composition and for the region to be ready with the relevant scientific evidence in case sharks would be proposed again to be listed in the CITES Appendices during the upcoming CITES-COP16.

41. The representative from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD informed the Consultation on the proposed training program for the identification of shark species which will be conducted by MFRDMD, focusing on the dominant species of sharks and rays in Malaysian waters. In addition, the

representative from MFRDMD also encouraged the Member Countries to consider the development of their respective NPOA on sharks as evidence that there are regulations for the conservation and management of sharks fisheries in the region, during the forthcoming CITES-COP16.

42. The Consultation was also informed that the proposed listing is usually announced less than five months before the COP-CITES, and that the forthcoming CITES-COP16 will be hosted by Thailand in 2013. In this connection, SEAFDEC was requested to continue monitoring the issues related to the proposed listing in the Appendices of CITES and to convene inter-agency consultation to discuss the issues prior to the CITES-COP16.

V. OTHER ISSUES

5.1 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

43. The Consultation noted the background and progress on the discussion of emerging issues in relation to fisheries and aquaculture especially on the initiatives to mitigate the impacts of climate change based on the review and discussion on climate change: adaptation and mitigation (**Annex 17**) as presented by a representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Ms. Sawitree Chamsai*. The Consultation was also informed on the Roadmap for Priority Actions developed under the five-year FAO Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change which will be discussed at the next COFI meeting and that Philippines as the lead country for key cluster on “Adaptation and mitigation to impacts of climate change” under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), is developing a proposal in collaboration with AQD on the adaptation of the impacts of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture.

44. In this regard, the Consultation suggested that regional discussions on climate change should be continued and that the visibility of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in global climate change discussions should be increased. For its part, SEAFDEC can take part in the discussions by reporting on its projects related to the adaptation of the impacts of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture.

45. The representative from MFRDMD informed the Consultation that MFRDMD has collaborated with a local institute in Malaysia for the conduct of a study on the effects of increased sea temperature in coastal areas on the declining catch of squid. In this connection, the Consultation suggested that the ASEAN Member Countries should take advantage of the results of the MFRDMD study, considering that the effects of climate change in one area could also happen in neighboring areas and hence, regional dimensions on the impacts of climate change could be established.

46. In this connection, the representative from Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC should also establish baseline information on the impacts of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, and to come up with common position which could be raised during the COFI meeting. Considering that issues related to climate change and small-scale fisheries would be included in the Agenda of the forthcoming COFI meeting, the Consultation encouraged the SEAFDEC Member Countries to participate in the COFI meeting to raise the initiatives of the countries in addressing such issues. While noting the recommendations of the representative from Thailand, SEAFDEC/TD suggested that the issue on the reduction of the use of fossil fuel and oil during fishing operations should be considered by the respective countries’ fisheries sector. In addition, the representative from Thailand also encouraged the countries to consider using alternative energy in fisheries. After the discussion, the Consultation reiterated its support to the Roadmap of Priority Actions which will be presented during the upcoming COFI meeting.

47. In order to support the various proposed activities with particular emphasis on mitigating the impacts of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, the Consultation recommended that SEAFDEC should consider sourcing funds from the Adaptation Fund (AF) established by the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The AF could finance concrete adaptation projects and programs in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

5.2 Ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture

48. A representative from the SEAFDEC Training Department, *Ms. Panitnard Taladon* presented the background and briefs on the concepts of ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture (**Annex 18**). The Consultation while taking note of the status of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in the Southeast Asia, identified the future needs to further promote the EAF in the region which could include training or workshop.

49. While considering that there is a need to fully understand the EAF concept, the representative from Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC should convene a workshop in the region as means of building the capacity of the countries in implementing the EAF. The representative from the Philippines informed the Consultation that a form of an EAF system had been conducted in the Philippines focusing on co-management involving the fishing communities. Specifically on a larger scale, the Philippine Government legislated in Republic Act No. 10067 known as the Tubbataha Reefs National Park Act of 2009 establishing a 10 nautical mile buffer zone around the 97,030 ha as no-take marine reserve which also serves as source and sink of marine species in the Reefs to ensure that no single species of fish in the Reefs could become extinct.

50. Considering that the implementation of EAF in the region could be fragmented, the representative from Vietnam suggested that a framework in implementing EAF in the region should be established, under which the Member Countries could report their respective activities. In the establishment of such framework, she also emphasized that economic issues should be considered such as management model that includes the development of fish products which could bring back economic returns to fishers and at the time encourage them to also undertake conservation activities.

51. The Consultation noted the need for cooperation among related agencies and departments in the Member Countries in balancing the three aspects of sustainable development, *i.e.* ecological well-being, human well-being and governance. In this regard, SEAFDEC suggested that the countries should analyze their concerns related to EAF that should be addressed. The Consultation therefore suggested that the efforts of SEAFDEC in integrating habitat and management which involves inter-agencies could be presented during the COFI meeting.

52. The representative from Philippines shared his country's experience in implementing EAF-related project involving three departments, namely: the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Agriculture (DA) with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under it, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) with the local government units under it, which had been successful.

53. The representative from SEAFDEC Training Department informed the Consultation that although FAO had already developed the guidelines on EAF, such guidelines may not be appropriate for the ASEAN region. However, SEAFDEC has been implementing EAF-related projects such as the reduction of impacts from trawl fisheries on the environment under FAO/UNEP/GEF projects, and fish *refugia* under the UNEP/GEF/SCS project, and the Sida-supported project on the Integration of Habitat to Fisheries Management. In addition, the issue on ecosystem approach to fisheries would also be discussed during the forthcoming ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020: Fish for the People 2020 – Adaptation to a Changing Environment which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2011, particularly on the aspects of: i) ecosystem intervention; ii) resource enhancement; and iii) reduction of the impacts of fisheries on the environment. As envisaged therefore, the outcomes from the said ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference

could form part of an underlying principle in the implementation of the EAF by the countries in the region.

54. Furthermore, the Consultation was informed that the EAF has also been applied in inland fisheries management, especially in the Lower Mekong River basin but this early, the possible impact of EAF in the fish production from inland fisheries could not yet be concluded.

5.3 Others

- Proposal related to climate change

55. The Chief SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, *Dr. Joebert D. Toledo* presented the draft project proposal on the “Effect of Global Change Impact on Tropical Aquatic Resources and Development of the Alleviation Technology in Southeast Asian Region” which was developed by SEAFDEC/AQD in collaboration with the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and other relevant Philippine agencies (**Annex 19**). While noting that such draft proposal had already been submitted by AQD to the Philippine Government for endorsement to the ASWGFi, the Consultation suggested that SEAFDEC could package the proposal for possible funding from the Adaptation Fund of the UNFCCC.

56. In addition, the representative from the Philippines also informed the Consultation that in addition to the draft proposal presented by AQD, the Philippines as the lead country on climate change under the AFCF framework would also conduct activities on climate change through the country’s Climate Change Commission that would cover wide range of activities. In this connection, the representative from SEAFDEC/TD also suggested that activities that would address the impacts of fisheries on climate change such as carbon emission from the use of fossil fuel in fishing activities should also be conducted.

57. The representative from Thailand suggested that in the AQD proposal, adaptation implications should also be explored in addition to proposed mitigation activities, and that the proposal should capture several issues on climate change such as emission of carbon dioxide, greenhouse gas (GHG) effects, and disaster risk management. Moreover, he also suggested that baseline information should also be compiled from the data of historical research in order to come up with a clear picture of climate change and its impacts to fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

58. The representative from MFRDMD while supporting the proposal presented by AQD especially on the study of endangered species such as sea turtles suggested that Member Countries should study the impacts of rising sand temperature on the nesting beaches of sea turtles which are vulnerable to climate change and which could lead to the production of imbalance sex ratio of sea turtles. He cited the result of a study of MFRDMD which showed that increased temperature in the nesting beaches of sea turtles had led to the production of all female sea turtle hatchlings. In addition, he also mentioned that increased sea water temperature had also affected the income of traditional fishers in Malaysia due to the decreasing catch of squid, as results from the rising of sea water temperature.

59. After the discussion, the Chief of SEAFDEC/AQD requested the Consultation to provide comments on its proposal as soon as possible to enable AQD to improve the proposal which would be submitted to concerned authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC, for consideration.

60. The Consultation while considering the broad range of the issues on climate change suggested that the activities under the AQD proposal should however be scoped within the fisheries sector. Nonetheless, cooperation/support from other sectors could be sought to facilitate the implementation of the activities especially in the collection of secondary data from such agencies.

VI. ADOPTION OF CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION

61. The Consultation adopted this report of the Consultation and encouraged the Member Countries to make use of the outcomes from the Consultation as inputs during the discussions at relevant regional/international fora. In addition, the Consultation requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to prepare an Executive Report on International Fisheries Related Issues (2010-2011) taking into account the conclusion and recommendations made at this Consultation. The said Executive Report would be submitted to the 43rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 19th ASWGFⁱ Meeting for their consideration and endorsement.

V. CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION

62. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri* expressed his appreciation to the participants for their active participation and contribution which enabled the Consultation to come up with successful conclusion and significant recommendations. He advocated the continued and strengthened collaborative spirits among the Member Countries under the SEAFDEC modality on international fisheries-related issues, and declared the Consultation closed. His Statement appears as **Annex 20**.