

# **The Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC**

## **Review of Works and Countries' Directives in Relation to Marine Capture Fisheries**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Since its establishment in 1967, SEAFDEC's direction has been changed from improvement of technologies including capture fishery, aquaculture and post harvest technology for enhancing the fishery production to the promotion of responsible fisheries of the Southeast Asian region in 1990s taking into accounts to the requirements of the international fisheries-related issues continue to emerge, as well as fisheries policy issues and trade barriers, threatening the sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Southeast Asian region. In 2017, as SEAFDEC was entered the threshold of its Fiftieth Anniversary and taking the opportunity of the occasion as a platform to guide SEAFDEC towards its future direction, the SEAFDEC Program Committee during its Thirty-ninth Meeting in 2016 suggested that a Special SEAFDEC Council Meeting should be organized with the objective of setting the future direction of SEAFDEC beyond its Fiftieth year. The Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC was therefore developed taking into accounts the prioritized issues for future regional program formulation adopted during the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2014, and the recommendations/suggestions by SEAFDEC Member Countries. The Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030 was adopted (**Annex1**) during the Special SEAFDEC Council Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 November 2017 which organized in conjunction with the Fiftieth Anniversary of SEAFDEC.

### **REVIEW OF WORKS AND COUNTRIES' DIRECTIVES**

The Resolution comprises of preamble, Vision and Missions, and six (6) strategies including 29 actions that SEAFDEC have to take into consideration when developed any programs/projects to ensure that it is alignment within 6 strategies to meet the SEAFDEC vision towards 2030. Six strategies are as follows: 1) Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region; 2) Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region; 3) Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region; 4) Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements; 5) Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries; and 6) Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries. Considering the marine capture fisheries issues, all strategies are concerned exception to the Strategy 2 and 3 where the areas are focused on aquaculture and food safety aspects, respectively. **Table 1** shows the existing FCG/ASSP projects which are related to the marine capture fishery under the responsibility of SEAFDEC/TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat in

accordance with the new SEAFDEC Strategy toward 2030. The key action requires for marine capture fisheries can be concluded as follows:

- Assessment of important marine fish stocks in the region and development of guidelines of management measures for such fish stocks;
- Compilation of scientific data and information including local knowledge on marine fisheries to support policy formulation and management for sustainable fisheries;
- Development and promotion of regional measures and tools for combating IUU fishing;
- Development of innovative management tools and concepts that are applicable for fisheries in the region;
- Development and promotion of responsible fishing technologies, including energy optimization, carbon reduction and reduction of post-harvest losses onboard fishing vessels;
- Integration of habitat and fisheries management, and provision of support for the conservation of important fishery resources;
- Development and promotion of traceability system for fish and fishery products in the region;
- Monitoring of the possible impacts of and raising awareness on climate change to fisheries, and development of adaptation and mitigation measures in response to such impacts;
- Development regional initiatives to promote the consideration of environmental and biodiversity conservation issues in fisheries management; and
- Recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries, welfare of labor in fisheries, safety at sea, and gender equality in the fisheries sector.

## **CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD**

What SEAFDEC need to support Member Countries on marine capture fisheries can be summarized into five (5) areas as follows: 1) Stock assessment including the stock structures, stock status and monitoring. SEAFDEC need to have a strategy to promote national stock assessment, fishery data collection framework, and improvement of fisheries statistics at national level. This should lead to support the Regional assessment for shared stock within the Southeast Asia; 2) Fishery profiles in each Member Countries to make sure that we understand the fishery structure, fishing effort and fisheries monitoring. One of the big challenges to support the stock assessment is the fishing efforts by type of gear. In this regards, to avoid the data poor analysis for shared stock or fish stock, SEAFDEC need to address how important of the data collection on fishing effort to member countries; 3) Governance issues on fisheries policy and management, and regulation; 4) Social-cultural aspects which are related to consumption, livelihoods, and community awareness such as on climate changes, importance of small-scale fisheries, welfare of labor in fisheries, safety at sea, and gender equality in the fisheries sector, etc.; and 5) Development of innovative management tools and concepts that are applicable for fisheries in the region

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ANNEX 1

## ADOPTION

*(Adopted on 15 November 2017 at the Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council )*

### **Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC:**

#### **Vision, Missions, and Strategies Towards 2030**

We, the Council Directors of SEAFDEC during our Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on 15 November 2017 organized in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SEAFDEC,

**Recognizing** that provisions in various international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG, 2015), the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF, 1995), and relevant International Plans of Action are crucial for the development of programs and activities towards enhancing the practices for sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region;

**Affirming** the need to implement actions in line with regional fisheries policy frameworks, particularly the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for fisheries during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” in June 2011;

**Also affirming** the need to support the Member Countries of SEAFDEC in the implementation of regional guidelines and policy recommendations developed by the SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries;

**Bearing in mind** the need to enhance cooperation with ASEAN under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) framework, support the implementation of activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism, and take into consideration the “Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries (2016-2020)”;

and

**Recognizing** the need for SEAFDEC to continue playing an active role in enhancing the collaboration among the Member Countries, as well as partnerships with prominent regional, international

organizations and donor agencies towards the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region;

**Being aware** the fact that regional guidelines and policy recommendations and frameworks developed under different organizations, mechanism and arrangements beyond Southeast Asian region need to be taken into account; and

**Resolved** to adopt the Vision, Missions, and Strategies of SEAFDEC towards 2030, as follows:

## **I. VISION**

*“Sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region ”*

## **II. MISSIONS**

*“To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia ” through:*

- i. **Research and development** in fisheries, aquaculture, post harvest, processing, and marketing of fish and fisheries products, socio-economy and ecosystem to provide reliable scientific data and information.
- ii. **Formulation and provision of policy guidelines** based on the available scientific data and information, local knowledge, regional consultations and prevailing international measures.
- iii. **Technology transfer and capacity building** to enhance the capacity of Member Countries in the application of technologies, and implementation of fisheries policies and management tools for the sustainable utilization of fishery resources and aquaculture.
- iv. **Monitoring and evaluation** of the implementation of the regional fisheries policies and management frameworks adopted under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism, and the emerging international fisheries-related issues including their impacts on fisheries, food security and socio-economics of the region.

## **III. STRATEGIES**

### **1) Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region:**

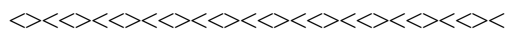
- a. Assessment of important marine fish stocks in the region and development of guidelines of management measures for such fish stocks;
- b. Assessment of the status of inland fisheries, and compilation of baseline information on policies and regulations related to inland fisheries in the Member Countries;

- c. Compilation of scientific data and information including local knowledge on both inland and marine fisheries to support policy formulation and management for sustainable fisheries;
  - d. Development and promotion of regional measures and tools for combating IUU fishing;
  - e. Development of innovative management tools and concepts that are applicable for fisheries in the region;
  - f. Development and promotion of responsible fishing technologies, including energy optimization, carbon reduction and reduction of post-harvest losses onboard fishing vessels; and
  - g. Integration of habitat and fisheries management, and provision of support for the conservation of important fishery resources.
- 2) Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region:**
- a. Development, verification and promotion of responsible and sustainable aquaculture technologies, to improve the quality of broodstocks and technologies on seeds production;
  - b. Finding alternatives to fish meal in feed formulation and promote economical use of feeds;
  - c. Development of practical fish health management strategies including the establishment of early warning system for aquatic animal diseases;
  - d. Generation of appropriate technologies for rural aquaculture to provide livelihood and alleviate poverty; and
  - e. Compilation of scientific data and information including local knowledge to support policy on sustainable aquaculture.
- 3) Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region:**
- a. Development and promotion of technology to produce high quality, healthy and safe fish and fishery products to meet the international standards;
  - b. Improving endogenous processing technologies to standard or acceptable levels;
  - c. Regular monitoring of chemical and biological contaminants to ensure seafood safety; and
  - d. Promotion of seafood quality assurance systems for fish processing establishments in the region.
- 4) Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements:**
- a. Strengthening the cooperation among Member Countries to implement international standards in trade of fish and fishery products within the ASEAN region;
  - b. Development of regional standards, policies and guidelines to enhance intra-regional/international trade; and
  - c. Development and promotion of traceability system for fish and fishery products in the region.
- 5) Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries**
- a. Provision of platforms for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of emerging international fisheries-related issues on the fisheries and economic sectors in the region;

- b. Organizing fora to enhance the awareness of Member Countries on international fisheries-related issues and coordinating the development of the ASEAN Common Positions to address the regional concerns on the issues;
  - c. Monitoring of the possible impacts of and raising awareness on climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, and development of adaptation and mitigation measures in response to such impacts;
  - d. Development regional initiatives to promote the consideration of environmental and biodiversity conservation issues in fisheries and aquaculture management; and
  - e. Recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries, welfare of labor in fisheries, safety at sea, and gender equality in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- 6) Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries:**

Strengthening SEAFDEC’s capacity to support ASEAN’s efforts to adopt and implement regional policies and guidelines, as well as ASEAN’s efforts to monitor the implementation of such regional policies and guidelines;

- a. Enhancing the human resource capability of the Member Countries to support, adopt and nationalize regional policies and guidelines;
- b. Expanding the network with prominent organizations in relevant fields and engaging actively in international fisheries fora;
- c. Enhancing human resources within SEAFDEC organization and pooling expertise in the region to improve the performance of SEAFDEC; and
- d. Promoting SEAFDEC to wider international communities to gain more supports from organizations, governments and donors.



**Table 1: Existing FCG/ASSP projects which are related to the marine capture fishery**

No.	Program Thrust/Project Title	Lead Department	Strategy Towards 2030					
			1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries	TD	✓					✓
2	Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities	TD	✓					✓
3	Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia	TD	✓					✓
4	Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management	MFRDMD	✓					✓
5	Promotion of Counter Measures to Reduce IUU fishing activities	TD	✓					✓

No.	Program Thrust/Project Title	Lead Department	Strategy Towards 2030					
			1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products	MFRDMD				✓		✓
7	Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	✓					✓
8	Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	✓					✓
9	Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia	TD	✓					✓
10	Enhancing the compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region	TD/SEC				✓		✓
11	Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD						✓
12	Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD						✓
13	Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia	SEC	✓				✓	✓
14	USAID-SEAFDEC “Oceans and Fisheries Partnership”	TD				✓	✓	✓