

ENHANCING GOVERNANCE IN FISHERY MANAGEMENT



Fisheries is an important sector that provides substantial contribution to people's food security and well-being, poverty alleviation, and economic development.

Concurrent with the increasing competitiveness and conflicts in the use of land and water resources, the growing demand for quality and safety of fish and fisheries products, and the impacts of fisheries on the environment and *vice versa*, are momentous challenges that have emerged at the global level such as the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as other relevant international instruments that advocate the need for better management and utilization of aquatic resources.

In 1998, SEAFDEC took the initiative of providing support to the Member Countries for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) through the regionalization of the Code. Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia were developed:

- Responsible Fishing Operations
- Responsible Fisheries Management
- Responsible Aquaculture
- Responsible Post-harvest Practices and Trade
- Supplementary Guidelines on Co-management Using Group User Rights, Fishery Statistics, Indicators and Fisheries *Refugia*.

Activities were subsequently carried out to support the implementation of the CCRF including those pertinent to enhancing governance and fisheries management.

As one of the initiatives to improve fisheries management, TD advances the community-based fisheries management and co-management by promoting the sharing of management responsibilities and authorities between the government and concerned stakeholders.

Pilot projects were implemented in selected countries to strengthen local institutions and champion the framework of community-based and co-management to local governments, fishers and other stakeholders, with the objective of enhancing the fishery resources, generating additional incomes, and enhancing the livelihood of fishers and the fisheries communities, while sustaining the resources.

Based on the outcomes of the pilot projects, the concept of community-based fisheries management and co-management was extended to the other countries in the region through the conduct of regional consultations and training courses.

