The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference
on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020

Fish for the People 2020:
Adaptation to a Changing Environment

13-17 June 2011
The Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok Hotel, Thailand

www.ffp2020.org
BACKGROUND

The fisheries sector has been widely recognized as an important sector providing substantial contributions to food security for countries in the Southeast Asian region. With the objective of addressing important issues pertaining to the sustainable development of fisheries, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) co-organized in November 2001, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”. During that time, the “Resolution” and “Plan of Action” on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region were adopted by the ministers responsible for fisheries of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, and since then such instruments have been used as both policy framework and guiding principle in the development of sustainable fisheries of the region.

However, in view of the deteriorating state of fishery resources and the emerging fisheries-related issues and initiatives during the past decade which need to be addressed, ASEAN and SEAFDEC are organizing the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020” or “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”, scheduled from 13 to 17 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. Based on the progress in the implementation of the “Resolution” and “Plan of Action” adopted in 2001, the “Fish for the People 2020” Conference will further address the priority issues that are envisaged to impede the sustainable contribution of fisheries to food security in the region. It is also expected that the Conference will come up with the regional policy framework and guiding principle for the ASEAN countries in achieving sustainable fisheries for food security for the coming decade while also responding to the changing environment.
OBJECTIVES

The Conference aims to address the concerns on the current fisheries situation and emerging issues that may impede the sustainable development and the contribution of fisheries to food security in the Southeast Asian region. Through a series of preparatory processes and technical consultations, the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020”, would be developed for consideration and adoption by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Senior Officials and Ministers responsible for fisheries during the Conference.

DATE AND VENUE

The Conference will be held from 13 to 17 June 2011, with Open Session (Inaugural and Technical Sessions) from 13 to morning of 16 June, at the Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok Hotel, Thailand.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

It is expected that the following outputs could be achieved from the Conference:
1. Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, which will be used as policy principle by the ASEAN countries in achieving sustainable fisheries for food security in the coming decade;
2. Concept Notes on the Conference Follow-up Program (5-year plan) in line with the Decade Resolution and Plan of Action;
3. Awareness building of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and participants on issues related to sustainable fisheries and food security; and
4. Reinforced ASEAN solidarity and closer cooperation in the field of fisheries through the adoption of the above policy instruments, in accordance with the implementation of ASEAN Charter in realization of the ASEAN Community.
# THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**13 June 2011**

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<td>- Fisheries and ASEAN Community Building (ASEAN)</td>
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<td>- Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation and Socio-economic Well-being of</td>
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<td><strong>TECHNICAL SESSION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
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<td>Reception Dinner hosted by the DOF Thailand and SEAFDEC</td>
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**14 June 2011** (four panels run simultaneously)

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**15 June 2011** (four panels run simultaneously)

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<td>13.30-17.00</td>
<td><strong>SENIOR OFFICIALS SESSION</strong></td>
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<td>- Senior Officials Plus Three Meeting for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference (Closed Session)</td>
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<td>- Senior Officials Meeting for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference (Closed Session)</td>
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**17 June 2011**

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<td>Ministerial Meeting for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference (Cont’d)</td>
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<td>- Statement by Stakeholders and Joint Ministerial Press Statement for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministerial Meeting (By Invitation)</td>
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*Remarks: Open Session from 13 June to morning of 16 June 2011.*
Weak governance is said to be the main underlying cause of overfishing. Fishery governance establishes the overriding principles and objectives of the sector. Governance which encompasses the institutional arrangements for stakeholders in the society to extract fishery resources, will determine how well societal problems are resolved and opportunities are created for enhancing social welfare. Good governance includes the formulation and application of principles that guide those interactions and care for the institutions that enable them.

Good governance requires the establishment, in a transparent and participatory fashion, of the most appropriate balance between short- and long-term objectives, between small-scale and commercial fisheries sectors and between maximization of income from license fees and long-term sustainability of the resources. Good governance also requires support for the developing world in the negotiation, implementation, and control of the fisheries agreement, ensuring that the interests of their domestic fishery industries are adequately protected.

This theme will pave the way for enhancing the role of governance in managing fisheries in the region. Enhancing governance could be implemented in the context of an ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. Ecosystem approach is clearly articulated in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), adopted in 1995 by the FAO member states. The CCRF provides an internationally accepted set of principles and guidelines for governance and best practices in fisheries development and management. Other instruments of relevance to this region, includes the International Plans of Action (IPOAs) on management of fishing capacity, on conservation and management of by-catch, and on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
Theme 2

Sustainable Aquaculture Development

- Meeting social and economic challenges of aquaculture
- Quality seed for sustainable aquaculture
- Healthy and wholesome aquaculture
- Maintaining environmental integrity through responsible aquaculture

It has been projected that by 2020, the total per capita consumption of food fish in Southeast Asia will reach 25.8 kg/year. At the same time, it has also been predicted that aquaculture will continue to grow and meet the deficit in food fish needs. However, the tasks ahead are daunting and challenges will have to be met in order for the sector to grow sustainably and effectively contribute to fisheries development in the region. This thematic session is a step towards the final formulation of a roadmap for sustainable aquaculture development in the region for the next ten years and beyond. The issues to be addressed in this thematic session are:

**Meeting Social and Economic Challenges of Aquaculture** aims to formulate strategies that could help meet the current and emerging socio-economic challenges of aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

**Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture** is envisaged to identify means to address emerging and potential issues related to the production, maintenance and dissemination of quality seeds for sustainable aquaculture.

**Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture** is meant to outline good practices to achieve healthy and wholesome aquaculture. This covers: a) disease diagnosis, monitoring and surveillance and control; b) fish meal substitutes (especially for small-scale aquaculture) and feeding management; c) environment as determinants of fish health and quality, and health certification and quarantine; and d) good aquaculture practices and implementation.

**Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture** is aimed at identifying measures on how the aquaculture sector could further promote the sustainability of the environment and respond to the threat of climate change.
Ecosystem interventions (e.g. fish refugia, protected areas, integration/harmonization of fisheries and habitat management, biodiversity)

- Resources enhancement and habitat improvement (e.g. restocking, artificial reefs, rehabilitation of mangroves, coral reefs, sea grasses, wetlands, freshwater reservoirs)

- Reduction of impacts from fishing on marine, coastal and inland environments

Ecosystem approach to fisheries is an important factor that could complement the existing fisheries management approaches. When fisheries managers understand the complex ecological and socio-economic environments in which fish and fisheries exist, they would be able to anticipate the effects that fishery management will have on the ecosystem and the effects that ecosystem change will have on fisheries.

A comprehensive ecosystem approach to fisheries management would require managers to consider all interactions that a target fish stock has with predators, competitors, and prey species; the effects of weather and climate on fisheries biology and ecology; the complex interactions between fishes and their habitats; and the effects of fishing on fish stocks and the habitats. However, the approach need not be endlessly complicated.

As an initial step, managers should consider how the harvesting of one species might impact other species in an ecosystem. Fishery management decision made at this level can prevent significant and potentially irreversible changes in the ecosystems caused by fishing. There are two requirements for managing human interactions with the ecosystems. One is to develop an understanding of the basic characteristics and principles of these ecosystems, what patterns of distribution and abundance they exhibit and how these systems function in space and time. The second is to develop an ability to manage human activities that impact on the ecosystems, consistent with sustainability of ecosystem diversity and with societal goals concerning the kinds of benefits that society could derive from these ecosystems.
The post-harvest sector is extremely important in fisheries. It deals with all activities after capture: handling the catch (on-board and on-shore), processing, distribution and marketing including control systems for managing the safety and quality and traceability of such products. The sector provides full time and part-time employment for at least three times as many people as fishers, a great many of which are women. There is an enormous relationship between the post-harvest sector and food security; it indirectly contributes to workers income and wealth, and is an important foreign exchange earner; and it directly supplies the people with food that is nutritious and contributes to animal protein supplies. In view of the current state of fisheries and increasing population in the region, the demand for food fish may not be met, as supply of fish will probably decrease over the next decade. Currently most fish within the region is utilized, but much of the catch landed is of poor quality and is utilized for non-human consumption or very low-valued products.

Methods of optimizing the utilization of fish catch need to be considered, so that those involved may receive a greater value for their products, and that more of the products could go for human consumption. Technical innovation has changed the fishery in the past as exampled by the development of surimi, which has transformed a group of low-valued fish into a value-added industry. Supply chain and control issues need to be considered as well as post-harvest losses, and waste and by-product utilization.

In most ASEAN countries 30-45% of fish landed are converted into traditional fish products. This is important for food security as most of it goes to the lower income socio-economic classes and plays a vital role in their diet. There is opportunity for expansion of this sector, but aspects of quality, safety, and marketing of such products have to be explored.

Finally, safety and quality of fish and fisheries products as well as other control factors (such as traceability) are of concern throughout the catching, handling, processing and distribution chains for both domestic and export markets. Moreover, quality, safety and control systems have to be established for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), particularly if such SMEs intend to export products. While such systems exist for larger industries and government, there are still issues to be resolved, particularly in the areas of harmonization of standards and in developing equivalence between and among countries for food/fish import and export inspection and certification systems.
Emerging Requirements for Trade in Fish and Fisheries Products

- Required, compulsory actions (including traceability, enhanced monitoring, certification, and catch documentation)
- Trade facilitation/supply chains (including voluntary schemes, fisheries eco-labeling, branding (promoting specific brand), and fair trade certification)

During the past decade, the fishing industry has seen some dramatic changes in terms of requirements to guarantee good quality, healthy products and other aspects that could indicate that the product is safe for human consumption. In addition there are increasing demands with regards to the production and production methods, and that producers have to guarantee/certify that all steps of the production are in line with acceptable environmental standards and that the production can be sustained including the important habitats. To be able to manage the fisheries, there is a regional/ASEAN and global call to combat IUU fishing – the binding agreement of Port State Measures and EU requirements for catch documentation are testimony to this. The trends, and emerging requirements, are looking not only at quality and environmental sustainability but increasingly also on the requirements to certify fair trade standards as well as social and labor related standards.

This thematic session, which also deals with the Integration of Fisheries into the ASEAN Economic Community on trade-related matters is envisaged to cover the intra-ASEAN trade, international trade, traceability, catch documents, labor and working conditions, certification/validations including the perspective of work and working conditions as key factors for fisheries trade (requiring certificates) and the ASEAN Community.

The session also addresses the central aspects of trade in fish and fisheries products which, given the importance of the sector to the countries of the region, is vital to the economies and well-being of the people. The emerging requirements are also central to maintaining and improving the well-being of the ecosystems and habitats, sustaining the fisheries and combating IUU fishing. These issues tend to underpin sustainable fisheries and food security.
For a number of years, global concern on climate change has called for creating awareness on the potential impacts from global warming or climate change including its impact on the fisheries sector. Climate change already affects Southeast Asia, through an apparent increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions with huge consequences i.e. flooding and sea water level rises, change of water temperature, change in species composition and distribution, coral bleaching, increase in storms and cyclones. Moreover, the Southeast Asian region is one of the world’s most vulnerable regions to climate change, due to its long coastlines, high density of population and economic activity in coastal areas and heavy reliance on agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other natural resources. The aspects on high vulnerability, large populations, coastal vulnerability should be seen in the perspective of the immediate needs to improve management, restore important and protective habitats, and provide alternative and diversified incomes.

Urgent adaptation and mitigation measures are required in response to opportunities and threats to food and livelihood provision due to climate variations. To address the issue of long-term food security in the ASEAN region in accordance with the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework, the regional framework for cooperation and coordination on climate change issues relevant to fisheries and food security in the ASEAN Region should be taken into consideration.

This thematic session will project on how to mitigate the impacts of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture in relation to marine life conservation and aquaculture production and livelihood. In addition, adaptation to the Climate Change is also addressed for restoring and maintaining protective coastal/inland landscapes/habitats, assessing and improving energy consumption, and identifying the capacity needed to adapt to climate change (what and where), e.g. enhancing safety at sea and rescue, among others.
Theme 7

Livelihood among Fishing Communities and Prospects of Employment in Fisheries-related Activities

- Social and economic aspects of an ecosystem approach to fisheries
- Monitoring and recording of social aspects, migratory labor (fishing crews, factory laborers, fishers)
- Meeting social and economic challenge and building capacity to adapt to change (e.g. poverty alleviation, alternative/supplementary livelihoods, FOVOP)
- Social rights, social security and labor (including social rights and social security in traditional small-scale fisheries, and social rights and social security among migratory fishers at larger vessels)
- Safety at sea for small-scale fisheries

Social aspects, labor requirements and the rights of coastal and inland communities to a descent livelihood are increasingly on the agenda. International conventions going back to the basic UN Human Rights Convention, the 1982 UNCLOS, IMO Conventions, ILO Conventions are, together with policies by companies, linked to the fishing industry and traders/retailers of fisheries products and increasingly add requirements on social well-being as well as labor conditions. In the ASEAN context, under the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprints, matters such as organization and diversified livelihoods of coastal and inland fishing communities, working opportunities and migratory work force in the fishing sector (including post-harvest and processing), role of women in communities and processing factories, fishing as an alternative livelihood and the need for alternative livelihoods for people involved in fishing, perspective of work and working conditions as key factors for fisheries management and trade, and the ASEAN Community and other aspects, are reflected. Thus, major changes could be foreseen in the development of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and onwards, including the opportunities and threats.

In this context, the rights of smaller coastal and inland communities as reflected in constitutions and international conventions should also be given focus. Furthermore, it is important to view the perspective of fisheries (small- and large-scale) through aquatic resources and habitat management, including trade opportunities in a broader context that includes both coastal and inland communities dependent on the aquatic resources and the employment opportunities provided by larger vessels and processing industries – which often provide alternative employment for rural/coastal people who might have the option to seek for employment opportunities elsewhere by migrating to other areas including neighboring countries.

In this thematic session, the development of ASEAN Community from the point of view of the social aspects and labor movements are key issues to consider. Subsequently, fisheries management up to 2020 should consider not only on how to manage the “fish” but also the well-being, and the rights of those involved (and those potentially excluded) in various aspects of fisheries, be it capture fisheries, trading, processing, as well as the migratory workforce.
In the tropical and temperate southern hemisphere, freshwater fishes from rivers, lakes and other wetlands are major sources of protein for large part of the world’s population, particularly the low income group. Inland fisheries and aquaculture have contributed about 25% to the world’s production of fish. The bulk of the production is generated by small-scale activities, with exceedingly high levels of participation not only in catching and farming, but also in processing and marketing. Thus, preventing further decline of fishes in the inland ecosystem is fundamental to sustainable development as fish and fishing are considered of central importance to the lives of many people in many countries of the Southeast Asian region that depend largely on the inland ecosystem as source of animal protein.

This thematic session will focus on how safeguarding food security from inland fisheries in the context of fisheries providing direct and indirect employment opportunities (in particular for women), income and nutrition, increasing household resilience and reducing vulnerability to natural hazards and economic uncertainty. The sustainable development of inland fisheries towards sustainable community-based inland fisheries resource management will be taken into account especially in areas where inland fisheries suffer greatly from environmental pressure, in particular from the deteriorating water quality and loss or degradation of habitats.

The session will focus as well on integrating fisheries with multiple inland water resources use, where competition for water and aquatic habitat is the most critical challenge facing inland fisheries in many countries and with inland fish producers continue to face increasing competition for water from other sectors. The fishery stakeholders alone cannot address the challenges since many of the problems are generated outside the fisheries sector. Integration, better coordination of planning and management of resources shared by fisheries and other users, are necessary in order to facilitate sustainable production from inland fisheries.
Side Events

Side events to be arranged in parallel with the Conference are:

- **Technical exhibitions/displays** by SEAFDEC and the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
- **Display of the best drawings** from the series of contests organized by individual countries
- **Side meetings** (evening sessions to be arranged by other organizations/institutions)
- **Post-conference study tour/excursion programs** on 16 June (afternoon) and 17 June 2011 (whole day). Registration and payment for the excursion program (not included in the Conference Registration Fee) could be made during the Conference.

Updated information on the side events will be provided at www.ffp2020.org.

**TARGET PARTICIPANTS**

With four main sessions, the Conference expects to have different sets of participants:

**Inaugural and Technical Sessions** (Open Session, from 13 June to morning of 16 June 2011):
- Fisheries policy makers and representatives from agencies responsible for fisheries of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as from other regions;
- National/regional/international organizations working on fisheries and food security aspects; and
- The private sector and relevant fisheries stakeholders (e.g. companies, fisheries and aquaculture associations, etc.).

**Senior Officials Session** (By invitation, in the afternoon of 16 June 2011):
The Session is open to the Senior Officials responsible for fisheries from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, and the Plus Three Countries (China, Japan and Republic of Korea).

**Ministerial Session** (By invitation, on 17 June 2011):
The Session is open to the Ministers responsible for fisheries from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The afternoon agenda on Statement by Stakeholders and Joint Ministerial Press Statement is, however, also open to the invited guests, representatives from the Conference organizers, and the press.

**Travelling to Thailand**

**Visa Requirements**
Participants are advised to contact the nearest Thailand Embassy or Consulate-General in your country to find out about visa requirements. The date of expiry of the passport must be at least 6 months from the date of arrival in Bangkok.

**Accommodation**
Participants (except the ASEAN-SEAFDEC delegates supported by the organizers) are advised to reserve accommodation before traveling to Thailand. List of hotels close to the Conference venue including their room rates is available in the Conference website.
**REGISTRATION**

Registration for the Conference is only for the **Inaugural and Technical Sessions** which is from 13 June 2011 until 16 June 2011 (morning).

Registration could be made in advance from 1 November 2010 to 31 May 2011 (through www.ffp2020.org) and during the first day of the Conference (13 June 2011). Advanced registration is encouraged to ensure the availability of seats and Conference documents/materials.

**Payment:**

1. **Advanced on-line payment** (from 1 November 2010 to 31 May 2011, using Visa Card, Master Card, or JCB):
   Registration fee is 250 US$ for payments made from 1 November 2010 to 31 March 2011; and 300 US$ for payments made from 1 April to 31 May 2011. Payment can be made during the on-line registration through www.ffp2020.org.

   *After on-line payment, participants will obtain a registration ID and printable e-document. This document should be shown during the first day of the Conference to obtain the official receipt and other Conference documents/materials.*

2. **Cash payment on the first day of the Conference** (13 June 2011):
   Participants registered through www.ffp2020.org can also choose to pay the registration fee during the first day of the Conference (13 June 2011). Registration fee is 300 US$, and only cash will be accepted.

   *The above registration fee covers the Conference documents (including proceedings), coffee breaks, lunches, and reception dinners; but does not cover optional programs, e.g. study tour and excursion programs. Registration is in effect only when payment is completed.*

**Cancellation Policy:**

For cancellations, refund can be requested through the Conference Secretariat (secretariat@ffp2020.org). However, for cancellations made by 30 April 2011, a cancellation fee of US$ 25 will be deducted from the registration amount; for cancellations during 1-31 May 2011, US$ 50 fee will be deducted; and for cancellations after 31 May 2011, no refund will be given. Refunds will only be processed one month after the Conference.

If the registered participant is unable to attend, a substitute participant may be allowed provided prior notification is made to the Conference Secretariat (secretariat@ffp2020.org) by 31 May 2011.

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**Limited offer** for students only! *(Supported by Japanese Trust Fund)*

Students who wish to join the Conference can contact the Conference Secretariat for more information on special registration rate (100 US$) and the conditions!
The Conference is co-organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand.

Sponsors
The preparation and conduct of the Conference is supported by:

- The Government of Japan
- The ASEAN Foundation through Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Collaborating Partners

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Mekong River Commission (MRC)
- Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)
- WorldFish Center
- Fisheries Research Agency (FRA), Japan
- Hokkaido University, Japan
- Coastal Development Center (CDC)
- Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
- National Fisheries University (NFU), Japan
- Tokyo University of Marine Sciences and Technology (TUMSAT), Japan
- Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University, Japan
- School of Marine Science and Technology, Tokai University (TUMST), Japan
- Hiroshima University, Japan
- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Japan
- Marine Institute of the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MI), Canada

ORGANIZERS AND COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Mekong River Commission (MRC)
Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
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WorldFish Center
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Coastal Development Center (CDC)
Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
National Fisheries University (NFU), Japan
Tokyo University of Marine Sciences and Technology (TUMSAT), Japan
Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University, Japan
School of Marine Science and Technology, Tokai University (TUMST), Japan
Hiroshima University, Japan
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Japan
Marine Institute of the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MI), Canada
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia later on joined, making up what is today the ten Member States of the ASEAN.

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an intergovernmental organization established in December 1967 for the purpose of promoting sustainable fisheries development in the region. Its current Member Countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. SEAFDEC has its Secretariat Office and four technical departments to pursue the objectives of the Center, namely:

- Training Department (TD) in Samut Prakan, Thailand;
- Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) in Singapore;
- Aquaculture Department (AQD) in Iloilo, Philippines; and
- Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia.

The Department of Fisheries, Thailand is a governmental agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, established on 21 September 1926 with its vision to work “Towards security and sustainability of fisheries stakeholders and prosperity of fisheries commodities and trade”.

For further information, please visit www.fff2020.org, or contact:
Telephone: +66 2940 6326, Fax: +66 2940 6336 or e-mail: secretariat@fff2020.org.