

**Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand sub-region**

**Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**20-22 September 2011**



**Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**

**The Secretariat**

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**(Sida)**

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## Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand sub-region

20-22 September 2011, Siem Reap, Cambodia

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### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand sub-region was organized in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 20 to 22 September 2011. The Meeting was to reestablish the momentum on the cooperation among countries of the Gulf of Thailand (GOT) sub-region in terms of the integration of fisheries and habitat management and in efforts to manage fishing capacity (reducing over-capacity and to combat illegal and destructive fishing (IUU fishing)). The Meeting also reviewed actions undertaken based on given recommendation during previous meetings organized in 2008 and 2009. Specifically, the Meeting wishes to come-up recommendations and actions to address issues of IUU Fishing, fisheries habitat management, fishing capacity, port monitoring, etc. Likewise, it also seeks partnerships and close cooperation among Members Countries in addressing such issues.

2. A total of 46 participants from the Gulf of Thailand countries namely: Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam attended in this Meeting, including representatives from regional organizations namely: the Secretariat of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Region (Indonesia), the Asian Coastal Resources Institute (CORIN-ASIA, Thailand), the Learning Institute (Cambodia), former working group on Seagrass of the UNEP/GEF/SCS as well as officials from SEAFDEC/Secretariat, SEAFDEC/Training Department and SEAFDEC/Marine Fisheries Resource Development and Management Department. The List of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

### II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*, firstly welcomed the participants of the Meeting and appreciated the representation of all Gulf of Thailand countries and the warm hospitality given by the Government of Cambodia and the Fisheries Administration in particular. He pointed out the effort made SEAFDEC with support by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) on the process to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among the Gulf of Thailand countries to address issues of management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing. He encouraged the participants to share information and views in order to come up with the recommendation on the various concerns relevant to fisheries management in the context of Gulf of Thailand sub-region that include fishing capacity, port monitoring and better closer cooperation on matters related to integration of fisheries management with habitat protection. His Introductory Statement appears as **Annex 2**.

4. The SEAFDEC Council Director and Director-General of the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia, His Excellency *Dr. Nao Thuok*, welcomed all participants to the historical city, Siem Reap. He expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for the success of the organization the significant event the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference convened in

June 2011 and subsequently the adoption of the "Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020" and "Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020" which serve as a policy framework and directions guiding for the region's fisheries development towards sustainability and food security. While noting the importance of implementation activities by SEAFDEC and Member Countries to reduce IUU fishing and to integrate fisheries management with habitat management through an ecosystem approach to fisheries and to restore and maintain important habitats in the Gulf of Thailand, the sub-regional and regional cooperation would be needed to further to improve the fisheries management in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region. He then declared the Meeting opened. His Opening Remark appears as **Annex 3**.

### **III. BACKGROUND OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

5. The Background of the Meeting was presented by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn* of the SEAFDEC Secretariat. She summarized the various rationale and objectives of the Meeting. The Prospectus of the Consultation appears as **Annex 4**.

6. Then, the Agenda which appears as **Annex 5** was adopted.

### **IV. REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GULF OF THAILAND MEETING IN 2009 AND THE SEQUENCE OF ON-SITE EVENTS ORGANIZED IN PHU QUOC, KAMPOT, KOH KONG AND TRAT**

7. *Mr. Aung Nyi Toe*, the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) Member for Myanmar, referred the activities conducted by the SEAFDEC-Sida project during 2003-2008 and reviewed the recommendations made during the Gulf of Thailand Meetings organized in 2008 and 2009 and also the sequence of on-site events organized around the Gulf of Thailand (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam). The Meeting encouraged the participants to provide recommendations to move and further the activities that have been started to carry on the momentum since the inception of this sub-regional cooperation. His presentation appears in **Annex 6**.

8. *Mr. Tep Chansothea*, researcher from the Learning Institute of Cambodia introduced the activities program that mainly focus to the strengthening the capacity of the community involve in natural resources management, with the empowerment of the local fishers as shown in **Annex 7**. The Meeting took note the community based management play important role by strengthening the involvement of the community in management and combating IUU within country's jurisdictional waters. The capacity building is essential approach in coping with other areas which tackled by Member Countries particularly on larger IUU fishing problems (i.e. large vessels encroaching inshore waters).

9. As a starting point and as a basis of discussion in the future, the Meeting suggested that status of IUU Fishing should be carried out around the Gulf of Thailand area. In addition, the Meeting also supported the establishment of sub-regional management body/arrangement for the Gulf of Thailand as a management measure.

Furthermore, the RPOA IUU was again stressed to be the basis/tool in combating IUU fishing in this sub-region stressing the importance of flag state and coastal state responsibilities.

10. Furthermore, the Meeting suggested that the necessary in developing the legal systems in the Gulf of Thailand region. However, consideration the inadequate of data and information in this area should be analyzed.

## **V. FOLLOW UP ON THE RECOMMENDATION AT THE EXPERT CONSULTATION ON MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY TO COMBAT IUU FISHING**

11. The Meeting took note the summary of the recommendations from the Expert Consultation on Managing Fishing Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia which held on 15-17 September 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand as provided by *Dr. Ahmadi*, RFPN Member for Indonesia. Key issues for improving fisheries management, controlling fishing efforts and combating IUU fishing as well as reviewing on conventions relevant to fishing vessels (IMO) were highlighted such as fishing vessel registration and fishing licenses (vessels, gear and people) and institutional and legal responsibilities, vessel record and inventory, catch documentations, port monitoring, certification schemes, development of MCS Network which the Consultation provided a set of recommendation for improvement of fisheries management in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region. His presentation as show in **Annex 8**.

12. Linking with RPOA, *Mr Budi Halomoan*, representative from RPOA Secretariat presented the progress of the work under RPOA Workplan and activities 2011, particularly in strengthening legal, administrative and policy frameworks including model legislations and also strengthening regional/international cooperation through capacity building and information sharing. His presentation as show in **Annex 9**.

13. *Ms Panitnard Taladon*, representative from SEAFDEC/TD provided information on the Human Resource Development program supported by the Japanese Trust Fund. She also provided other relevant activities related for example “Improvement of Information Gathering System to Combat IUU-Fishing in Southeast Asian Region” and “Promotion of Fishing License, Boats Registration System and Port State Measures (TD and MFRDMD). Her presentation as show in **Annex 10**.

14. During the discussion, the Meeting took note that the study or research on the issues and gaps on combating IUU fishing should be carried out. To come up with the realization of ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, the Meeting was urged the Member Countries should start together and learn together for IUU Fishing is major problem that needs for cooperative effort to combat not just for the trade. Thus, country-specific study on IUU fishing including port state measures is needed. Furthermore, the variation of IUU Fishing among countries was highlighted. It was also suggested to study and evaluate the impact of IUU fishing activities in the region such as economic development (AFTA- in the year 2015) and bring forward for further discussion.

## **VI. INFORMATION ON SELECTED GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ITS RELEVANCE TO FISHERIES AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT (AND TO COMBAT IUU FISHING), INCLUDE REFERENCES TO ASEAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

15. The Meeting provided the review of various selected global and international instruments related to fisheries and habitat management by *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, SEAFDEC-Sida Project Manager, which includes e.g 1982 UN convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries(CCRF), 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development(UNCED), 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement(UNFSA), 2003 International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity), 2001 International Plan of Action to Prevent, deter, Eliminate, Illegal, Unreported and unregulated Fishing(IPOA-IUU), and 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. Included the recent adopted ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action as a guidance policy framework for the region highlighted key aspects of fisheries management by integrating the plans based on ecosystem approach to fisheries conservation and management and particularly addressed on the implementation and activities to combat IUU fishing and strengthening regional and sub- regional cooperation on fisheries management. These instruments forms as basis of fisheries management measure that maybe applied to the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region. Her presentation as show in **Annex 11**.

## **VII. FISHERIES AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT/REFUGIA AND TRANS-BOUNDARY STOCKS AND HABITAT**

16. Mr. Ouk Vibol, former Working Group on Seagrass of the UNEP/GEF/SCS and currently Acting Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation of the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia recalled the activities implemented by the UNEP/GEF/SCS project that ended in 2008. He reviewed on the experiences and lessons learnt on establishment of Fisheries *Refugia* in coastal area of Cambodia waters. He further highlighted the implementation of the project in promotion of the Fisheries *Refugia* and management and stressed the linkages of fish life cycle and their critical habitats. While taking note the importance of the community involvement in consultations, data collection activities and the programs implementation was deemed essential for attainment of objectives. With regard to transboundary issues, the bilateral arrangement made, it was noted that Memorandum of Agreement between the two (2) transbounded/ neighboring provinces (Kampot in Cambodia and Kien Giang in Vietnam) has been signed and five (5) programs were stipulated under said MOA. His presentation appears as **Annex 12**.

17. While noting the importance of Fisheries *refugia* and its adaptation in the regional level has gained recognition throughout the years, several terms has been used resulting misunderstandings among users particularly local fishers. Thus it was suggested that uniform terms maybe widely adopted and evade usage of relevant words in this sub-region to avoid confusions and promote uniformity. However, it was as well stressed that fisheries *refugia* and other related terms maybe confusing but most importantly is that the

management implications might be the same and the involvement of the community is very essential in developing and establishment of these effort.

18. The Meeting recognized the need to specify species of concern for the establishment of fisheries *refugia* in the sub-region and their seasonal migration (feeding and breeding season), life cycle and other biological parameters be carefully studied and considered as basis of management options to be applied (area and season closure, gear restrictions. etc). Likewise, it was stressed that the instigation of smaller management areas is important in forming a bigger management area with transboundary consideration in this sub-region. Prior to imposition of measures, all aspects of biological, oceanographic and other parameters be studied and considered. In addition, involvement of all stakeholders in formulation of management measures is deemed important.

19. The Meeting also discussed the legal implications on Fisheries *refugia* context. It was again stressed that measures to be implemented must be in the conformity with the existing national legal framework of the Member Countries and similarities among MCs maybe seek out/identified to support a common measure.

## **VIII. STRENGTHENING MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS) IN THE GULF OF THAILAND AND RELATED ACTIONS**

### ***MCS Networks and the Establishment in the Gulf of Thailand (the MCS Network revisited) and the aspects on “community-based”***

20. *Mr. Joeren S. Yleana*, RFPN member for the Philippines reviewed the information on MCS Network in the sub-region. He highlighted the recommendations made during the previous meetings. The initial option for MCS networks development was agreed to focus first on information sharing and institution cooperation by close coordination with agencies involved in member countries. Specific aspects of information include; vessel record and inventory, port monitoring mechanism and landing information. He also reviewed MCS programs in Member Countries. His presentation appears as **Annex 13**.

21. The Meeting recognized the unavailability, insufficiencies of quality and uniformity data among Member Countries as one of hindrances to enable information sharing thus mechanisms to address such should be agreed and considered by the representatives of Member Countries. Likewise, the variations of implementation of MCS activities in the region also served as challenge for sub-regional MCS Network. It was also informed that SEAFDEC may have to mandate in coming up of the Network in the (sub-) region, however it can provide/support technical efforts to combat IUU fishing in the (sub-) region.

22. The Meeting discussed about specific aspects of information sharing to initiate M, and C functions. The Meeting also encouraged on the minimum data requirement that should be gathered and shared among Member Countries. In this regard, it was suggested that this concern be brought to the council committee to make it obligatory (not voluntary). For better communication, it proposed that member countries to nominate focal point who will be responsible in facilitating communication and sharing of

information (as it possible the same focal point with the RPOA). The Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC should send official letters to member countries regarding this matter.

23. Since MCS among Countries in the sub-region is a shared or collaborative effort among national agencies thus, it was suggested that before jumping into the regional level, each country should developed first good cooperation among related agencies within their national government in implementing relevant measures. It was informed that the network does not only pertains on sharing of information but as multi-function program which involves; Monitoring-scientists, Control – legal component, Surveillance – patrolling.

24. The Meeting took note that the Community-based Fisheries Management should also be supported to enhance the participation of stakeholder and local government in management of fisheries and habitat including combating/reducing the IUU fishing. There are many lesson learned places in this region such as Coastal Resources Management Project in Philippines and CHARM project in Thailand.

25. The Meeting also stressed the complexity of the region's capture fisheries characterized by small-scale, multi-gear/species fisheries thus issues on the applicability of measures set by developed nations in SEA region will be reconsidered owing to variability and diversity and nature of fishing activities as position on international forum in setting up of global instruments (e.g. on IUU Fishing).

#### ***Cooperation through the Vessel Registration and Licensing System***

26. Participants provided a short description of their respective country's program on vessel registration and licensing system. They highlighted their gaps and challenges in carrying out these systems recognizing the complexity and number of vessels/boats in their country. The Meeting recognized the variability in advancement vessel registration and licensing system in this sub-region and mentioned/recognized in particular the electronic system used by Malaysia which may serve as a good example to emulate among other GOT countries.

27. It was suggested (by Cambodia) that pattern of registration and licensing should discussed and agreed among MCs in accordance with FAO and other relevant patterns which should be adopted among MCs. Likewise, considering the diversity and multitude of fishing practices in this sub-region, uniform system should be adopted (e.g. forms).

28. It was also noted that before every intervention considerations on other relevant laws and regulations should be considered (e.g. – before issuance of license, operators should assure adherence to international standards for labor (ILO).

29. The Meeting also discussed on applicability of measures being imposed on small scale fisheries (i.e. logbook). Likewise, in some areas where moratorium on licensing of large scale fishing is imposed and encourage small scale fishing, limitations should be considered to control fishing capacity at safe levels. Thus, it was recommended that studies necessary for such measures be undertaken to come up with policy

recommendations. Likewise, good programs may serve as good example for other Member countries (e.g. Thailand's mobile registration)

### ***Vessel Record and Inventory-building upon existing information***

30. *Ms. Halimah Binti Mohamed*, RFPN Member for Malaysia presented information on the fishing vessel registration and licensing system of countries in the sub-region which are diverse in the systems and institutional responsibilities. Her presentation as shown in **Annex 14**.

31. The Meeting noted the suggestions to overcome the limitations in managing fishing vessel registration and licensing in the sub-region such as development of community-based vessel registration for small scale fisheries, improvement of national system for fishing vessel registration and to issue licenses to fish, development a mechanism to share and exchange data in the (sub-) region, explore options for, including assistance, to make inventory/census of fishing vessels, Develop a (sub-) regional vessel registration database was also suggested as option.

32. In addition, the Meeting was informed on the newest tool initiated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to combat IUU fishing activities is known as Global Record (GR). However, the implementation of GR is on voluntary basis but it would be a global requirement in the future as to control the IUU fishing activities in the region.

33. *Ms. Praulai Nootmorn*, Director of Marine Fisheries Research and Technological Development Institute, Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand presented on "Master Plan of Marine Fisheries Management of Thailand". She informed the Meeting on the progress activity under a ten-year Master Plan of Marine Fisheries Management starting in 2009 such as fishing vessel record and inventory, capacity building on marine fisheries management, enhancement on marine fisheries management at provincial level etc. the data from the field and input in the database at the Provincial level have assistances from NGOs whereas the cross check system on those activities will also be well-established.

34. In the discussion, the Meeting was clarified that the fishing vessel record inventory implemented by DOF, Thailand was applied in all sizes of fishing vessels and the cross check data with the Marine Department who is the vessel registration authority have also been carried out. In addition, the Meeting noted the information on the new ILO Convention effected in 2007 and will be enforced shortly by the ILO members. In this connection, the Meeting was urged the concerns especially on the minimum age of fishing crews and safety of crews which would affect the fishing industry in the near future.

### ***Port Monitoring and Monitoring of Landings by neighboring country Vessels***

35. *Ms. Nopparat Nasuchon*, RFPN Member for Thailand highlighted the development of the Agreement on Port State Measure which adopted in 2009. She also stated the monitoring of landing by neighboring country vessels which specified its importance particularly in this sub-region where-in rampant practice of having double-flagged vessels is evident. Her presentation appears as **Annex 15**.

36. The immediate ratification of Port State Measure is vital however considerations to be taken which involve; 1) national laws and regulations should be reviewed among MCs and national registration must be in place, 2) ensure inter-agency coordination and cooperation should also be in place, 3) staff recruitment/requirement to carry port inspection and other functions, 4) training and capacity building (at sub regional level), 5) common understanding on classification between fishing port and landing sites and 6) improvement of data collection and mechanisms of information sharing among GOT countries be in place.

37. The Meeting also noted the need to identify landing sites and fishing ports (number and status) throughout the sub region as good starting point for PSM initiatives and reference for future activities. Likewise, it was also stressed that even non-exporting MC (Cambodia) should consider PSM for re-export of fishery products necessitates application of such measures (traceability).

38. Attention was specified on process of documentation needed on catch landed by foreign/ GOT member countries to neighboring country's fishing ports (Malaysian vessels landing on Thailand Ports in particular). Reporting mechanisms by these double flagged vessels should be properly in placed (for landing of catches from Malaysian waters to foreign ports is considered illegal in Malaysia). Bi-lateral agreement among countries involved maybe solicited regarding this sensitive matters.

39. SEAFDEC as a technical inter-governmental agency may work to facilitate capacity building and technical support on context of PSM requirements in the sub-region (e.g. training of port inspectors). In addition, it may also consider investigating the status of double flagged vessels operating in the GOT. This is in order to know reasons of existences of the problem for better understanding to avoid/resolve conflicts and support management.

#### ***Catch Documentation and Certification /Validation***

40. The Meeting took note of the presentation by *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, Policy and Program Coordinator of the SEAFDEC/Secretariat on catch documentations and certifications as tools to support MCS networks, as shown in **Annex 16**. It highlighted the importance of information accuracy and mechanism on sending information to importer country. A guideline for this procedure is required to make the operation smooth. Sharing experience among the countries is the best practice on developing the system (e.g. logbook and landing data system as applied in Malaysia and Thailand).

41. The problem of landings by foreign vessels (Malaysian) to neighboring country's ports was raised. The practice hampers the necessary information for assessing and managing the country's fishing capacity and considered illegal (in Malaysian Laws). Inquiry was also raised on legality of the practice in port state, reasons why this occurs and measures how to control these fishing vessels from landing in Thai ports. It was then suggested that fact-finding study be considered by SEAFDEC on these different cases such as double flagged vessels and landing of catch from vessels to other port of which it's not flagged.

42. Representative from MFRDMD recommended the countries to share landing data as scientific information in order to measure stock assessment and fishing capacity. In addition, SEAFDEC should support Cambodia for data collection in order to balance stock assessment in region since GOT shared the same resources. Currently there is no status of resources information in Cambodia.

43. The fishermen should follow the importers requirements especially on proper and accurate documentation about the catch information. Likewise, it was suggested (Thailand) to re-arrange import system (Custom Department) for fishes in the region as for the fisheries officer to check import (raw fishes and products) information.

44. The Meeting also recommended the countries to promote catch documentations and certification scheme at national level (e.g. Cambodia and Vietnam).

**IX. WAY FORWARD FOR SUB-REGIONAL, SUB-SUB-REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES AND HABITAT MGT, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO COMBAT IUU FISHING IN THE GULF OF THAILAND AND RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

45. To facilitate furtherance of agreements in this Meeting, common understanding on parties' limitations, input sharing and other sub regional concerns (labor migration and equal opportunities) should also be considered. In addition, focal persons should be identified/nominated for better communication and facilitate close cooperation and information sharing among GOT Member Countries. Commitment is as well encouraged among donor agencies, MCs and other entities for this sub regional cooperation to support in formulation of management measures.

46. To fully understand the purpose of managing fishing capacity as a tool in combating IUU fishing, technicalities on identification the various levels of capacity being exerted by various fishing gears should be discussed in relevant forums of SEAFDEC. This is to form common understanding on fishing capacity levels in the sub region considering the characteristics of the capture fisheries in the sub region (multi-gear and multi-species, small-scale dominated). In the context of reducing fishing capacity, several measures has been initiated like moratorium on issuance of trawl fishing license and impositions of larger mesh sizes of those still employs trawling (Thailand).

47. In advent of resource limitations, decreasing number of researchers/scientist, complexity of models, data variations/ insufficiencies among MCs and other related factors that influences reliable stock assessment, alternatives maybe devised. These includes the use of unconventional stock estimation methods like the determination of trophic and exploitation levels and use of indicators, etc. Likewise, capacity building should be facilitated by SEAFDEC for MCs to achieve data uniformity throughout the sub-region. Likewise, individual stock assessments by MCs may should always be consulted / planned among other GOT countries to harmonize methodologies and further encourage sharing. A Sub-regional Technical Consultation to come up with a uniform/standardized stock assessment methodologies maybe considered. Further, data

collected should always be interpreted at levels understandable by policy makers and other users for formulation of science-based policies.

48. To facilitate better and results-oriented recommendations, inter-agency cooperation within the government (inter-level) in formulation of programs and measures should be enhanced. This may somehow inflict (if not level up) the understanding of policy makers (in particular) on fisheries resources management. In addition, collaboration with NGOs should be enhanced to facilitate/trigger political will among policy makers on fisheries related concerns. Further, the importance of scientific data to cause political will is also deemed important thus understandable interpretation is essential. Furthermore, venue for researchers, policy makers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders may be provided to better facilitate common understanding, prioritization of activities (avoid efforts duplication) and influence political will.

49. The Meeting also stressed that in order to initiate activities for MCS Network in the sub region, timeframe should be specified in every activity to be undertaken. Likewise, legal frameworks should be laid out and discussed among MCs particularly on points of similarity on licensing and other fisheries aspects.

50. Several studies and researches were suggested to support fisheries management in the sub-region. Further studies maybe required (by SEAFDEC) to investigate relativity of stocks (species-specific) in the sub-region. Studies on status and causes of IUU fishing in the sub-region are likewise suggested to really address the root cause of the problem. Efforts to investigate the advantages and disadvantages (weakness and strengths) to tools that maybe applied for stock assessment and other relevant researches. Further, the tagging program which is considered inexpensive and easy to interpret should also be continued/increased by bilateral collaboration for increased recovery and good results. In these undertakings, collaboration with academes and other research institutions is encouraged.

51. The Meeting took note of the political support from member state is necessary to ensure effective fisheries management and combating IUU fishing. Likewise it was noted that the policy makers' views may not focus on fisheries management/conservation management. The Meeting suggested to cooperated and concreted communication mechanism between agency responsible for fisheries and other agencies (NGOs and stakeholders) on the requirements to manage fishing capacity.

## **X. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

52. The secretariat of the Meeting prepared and presented the synopsis of the recommendations provided during the deliberations of issues during the Meeting. It highlighted major recommended actions to be considered pertaining to the following: Regional and National Management approaches, National Policy/Systems/Mechanisms, Data Collection and Information Sharing on the Management of Fishing Capacity, Research and Development Activities, Awareness Raising and Capacity Building, and Communication with International Community, as shown in **Annex 17**.

## **XI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

53. The Secretary General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri* expressed his gratitude to the participants for their inputs during the three-day Meeting in which a good exchange of views solidified closed cooperation among representatives. He as well congratulated the organizers for the success of the Meeting and thanked the continued support provided by Sida for these types of endeavor. By this, mechanisms for the management of fisheries in the sub-region are near realization.