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REPORT

ON THE REGIONAL END-OF-PROJECT EVALUATION
MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

12-14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia



SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES
DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT





Report on The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

Hatten Hotel, Banda Hilir, Melaka, Malaysia

12-14 August 2026

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ABBREVIATION

AMAF	ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
ASSP	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership
ASWGF	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries
DAC	Development Assistance Committee.
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort
DOF	Department of Fisheries
FAF-SF	ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026–2030
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAFD	Food, Agriculture and Forestry Directorate
FCG- ASSP	Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership
FRI	Fisheries Research Institute
JAIF	Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund
JMT	JAIF Management Team
MFRDMD	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
NPOA	National Plan of Action
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCM	Program Committee Meeting
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEASOFIA	Southeast Asian State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture
SWG	Scientific Working Group
TD	Training Department
TER	Terminal Evaluation Report
UMT	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
UNDP	Scientific Working Group
UNISZA	Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin
UUM	Universiti Utara Malaysia

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**Report on the Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on
the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action
for the Management of Fishing Capacity
12 – 14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia**

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. SEAFDEC/MFRDMD convened the Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity from 12 to 14 August 2026 at Hatten Hotel, Melaka, Malaysia. The meeting was attended by 47 participants, both physically and online, including Ms. Kosaburo Shimose, First Secretary of the Mission of Japan to ASEAN; representatives from the JAIF Management Team (JMT); representatives from eight ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; representatives from the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Kampung Acheh, FRI Batu Maung, and FRI Bintawa; representatives from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC Training Department; as well as officials from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.
2. The Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, *Dr. Masahito Hirota* delivered the welcoming remarks by expressing gratitude to all participants for their presence and support. He highlighted the importance of the concept of the “commons,” emphasizing that fisheries are shared resources requiring cooperation, trust, and mutual understanding among nations. He underscored that fisheries cooperation is not only about resource management but also about fostering partnerships and building bridges among countries. *Dr. Hirota* conveyed his hope that the meeting discussions would strengthen regional collaboration for the well-being of people and expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan, JAIF, ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC, and all contributors for their commitment to the project’s success. His remarks appear as **Annex 2**.
3. The First Secretary of Mission of Japan to ASEAN, *Mr. Kosaburo Shimose* delivered his remarks. He expressed Japan’s appreciation for the project, noting its contributions to strengthening fisheries information systems, developing practical indicators, and documenting ASEAN conservation measures. He shared that the project also falls under the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan. Under this Plan, Japan and ASEAN are working together toward sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, and the project makes an important contribution to the sound management of fishery resources. ASEAN has also entered a new phase under the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026–2030 (FAF-SP). The new Plan clearly identifies the promotion of sustainable fisheries as a priority, including preventing overfishing and maintaining healthy fish stocks through ecosystem-based fisheries management and sustainable fishing practices. He stressed that the project’s completion should lead to concrete actions to further improve fisheries management across ASEAN. His remarks appear as **Annex 3**.

4. The Deputy Director General of Fisheries (Development) of Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia, *YBhg. Dato' Haji Azahari Haji Othman* delivered the opening remarks. He highlighted the Fishing Capacity Project's role in strengthening regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing, particularly on pelagic fisheries. He noted that Malaysia serves as Lead Country with SEAFDEC/MFRDMD as Lead Department in implementing the project, and emphasized the Project's successful implementation from 2024 to 2026 through the collective commitment of ASEAN Member States, SEAFDEC, the ASEAN Secretariat, JAIF, and partners. As the Project concludes, he emphasized the importance of reflecting on achievements and challenges, drawing lessons, and sustaining momentum to ensure continued collaboration and practical recommendations for future regional initiatives. His remarks appear as **Annex 4**.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND INTRODUCTION OF THE MEETING

5. The session was presided over by Director of Policy and Strategic Planning Division of DOF Malaysia, *Ms. Yazeereen A. Bakar*.
6. The Project Coordinator, *Ms. Mazalina Ali* presented 'Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Introduction of Meeting' to the participants and the agenda was adopted without any amendment. It appears as **Annex 5** together with a provisional prospectus.

III. PROJECT OVERVIEW

7. *Ms. Mazalina* presented the 'Agenda 3: Overview of Project Implementation and Key Achievements', outlining the activities that had been carried out, the timeline of implementation, the changes introduced, and the reports published. She further informed the meeting that only one activity remains to be completed, which is Activity 5.4 that has been scheduled for September 2026. Her presentation appears as **Annex 6**.
8. *Ms. Yazeereen* emphasized that the success of the project should not be measured solely by the number of reports produced, but by how effectively the results can be translated into improved fisheries management and stronger regional cooperation.

IV. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT OF THE TERMINAL REPORT

9. The resource person from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida Mat Piah* presented 'Agenda 4: Draft Terminal Report'. She first explained the process and workflow undertaken, before guiding the Meeting in reviewing the draft terminal report through the shared Google Drive document. Her presentation appears as **Annex 7**.
10. All AMSs representatives actively reviewed the draft and made the necessary edits accordingly.
11. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* drew attention to the participation of Singapore, noting that Singapore was only involved in one questionnaire and not in other activities unlike the other AMSs. *Ms. Lim Ai Gaik*, the representative from DOF Malaysia clarified that, since the Project Proposal Document specifies that all AMS with marine borders is included,

Singapore should be listed as a Participating Country. She also suggested that a note of Singapore's level of participation be elaborated in appropriate parts of the report including justification provided by Singapore on its participation. *Ms. Yazeereen* concurred, emphasizing that Singapore's response to one questionnaire qualifies its participation.

12. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* suggested adding a brief note in Chapter 1: Introduction to explain the non-involvement of Lao PDR and Timor-Leste in the Project, and her suggestion was accepted.
13. The resource person from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), *Prof. Dr Che Azlan Taib* suggested revising the term "Reference" to "Bibliography" to represent the actual reference style.
14. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* also recommended consolidating the results from Output 1, Output 2, and others into a single chapter. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida Mat Piah* explained that the terminal report was initially structured in the manner proposed by *Prof. Dr Che Azlan*. However, the current format, where each output has its own chapter, was adopted to ensure ease of understanding, especially for those unfamiliar with the Project.
15. *Dr. Pavarot Noranarttragoon*, the representative from Thailand suggested reviewing the Abbreviations section of the terminal report, in which he emphasized using the full names of all abbreviated terms, in accordance with the United Nations terminology list. *Prof. Che Azlan* reminded the participants to review the text carefully to ensure that no abbreviations are left unexplained.
16. *Dr. Pavarot* reminded the Meeting that the shortened month names in Table 1.1 should be standardized to ensure consistency.
17. *Prof. Che Azlan* suggested adding an introductory sentence or short sentence before or after the Figure or Table to provide context and link the diagram to the narrative of the report.
18. *Ms. Yazeereen* reminded the Meeting that any revisions made to the draft terminal report should not constitute major changes, as this would result in inputs differing from those contained in the earlier published report of the Project.
19. *Ms. Lim* suggested re-checking Malaysia's CPUE report which appears differently in different chapters. *Mr. Ryon Siow* from FRI Kampung Acheh clarified that Malaysia uses CPUE but does not report it. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* agreed to revise the sentence to clarify the different context.
20. The meeting also agreed to standardize the format for the titles of indicators and success stories submitted by AMSs.
21. *Ms. Lim* recommended the removal of Sub-topics 6.2 List of Publications and 6.3 Results Summary from Chapter 6, noting that their inclusion was redundant.

V. EVALUATION OF PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

22. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* briefed the Meeting on the evaluation process, explaining that it would be using a Google Form. The trial instrument had been developed, and the participants were requested to validate the instrument. He encouraged participants to provide feedback as part of the instrument validation process.
23. The session was presided over by Senior Director of Capture Fishery Resource Division from DOF Malaysia, *Mr. Ruzaidi Mamat*.
24. *Prof. Che Azlan* presented 'Agenda 5: Evaluation of Project Performance and Achievement'. He explained that the project terminal evaluation was conducted based on five criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. His presentation appears as **Annex 8**.
25. *Mr. Buoy Roitana*, the representative from Cambodia inquired about the use of Score 0. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* explained that Score 0 should be applied when a question is not applicable. In such cases, the score will be excluded from the final calculation
26. During the Meeting, 24 participants actively evaluated the project using a Google Form, which comprised 19 evaluation questions.
27. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* presented the preliminary analysis of the evaluation responses. The early results indicated that many participants awarded a score of 5, reflecting a highly satisfactory rating. Comments from the Meeting were also documented and presented.
28. *Mr. Buoy Roitana*, informed that currently Cambodia does not have a National Plan of Action for Fishing Capacity. He raised three main points: (i) NPOA for fishing capacity, (ii) Data sharing at national level and (iii) Training program. He suggested that the outcomes from the project be presented at the highest level of ASWGFi/AMAF.
29. Responding to *Mr. Ruzaidi's* inquiry on project implementation procedure, *Ms. Mazalina* clarified that the output of the Fishing Capacity Project is not a technical guideline or policy which requires approval/endorsement from the Council Directors, so MFRDMD is only required to present the output to the Project Committee Meeting (PCM) and the SEAFDEC Council Directors for information or notation. *Ms. Lim* concurred with this explanation, noting that the findings of the project can be submitted for notation and to seek guidance from the Council Director for future direction.
30. *Ms. Sawitree Chamsai*, Senior Policy and Program Officer from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, clarified MFRDMD's reporting tasks. The project's results will be presented at the 49th Meeting of the SEAFDEC PCM, while key achievements and policy recommendations will be submitted for consideration at the 29th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP). The meetings will be held back-to-back on 16–20 November 2026, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

VI. REVIEW OF DRAFT EVALUATION REPORT

31. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* presented the results of the evaluation. He reported that, based on 24 responses collected through the Google Form, the evaluation yielded a score of 79.67. When rounded, this resulted in a mark of 80, indicating that the project was Accepted with Minor Corrections. Participants questioned why the result was low, not higher level. He noted that the possible reason is the inconsistency of focal point participation in the project progress. He added that when the same focal point consistently attends and is involved in the project, they gain a better understanding of the work, unlike in some AMSs where different representatives are sent. *Ms. Lim* suggested amendment of the evaluation classification to better reflect the evaluation purpose.
32. *Ms. Mazalina* suggested *Prof. Dr Che Azlan's* study and revise the result classification. She proposed that the scoring should be applied according to three categories: (i) the project has fully achieved its objective, (ii) the project has partially achieved its objective, and (iii) the project has not yet achieved its objective.
33. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida*, who has served as the resource person for the Fishing Capacity Project since its inception, reported that the project has successfully achieved the majority of its outputs. She expressed the view that the evaluation score of 79.67% did not fully reflect the project's achievements. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* explained that the majority of scores provided by the 24 evaluators were in the Satisfactory category, which contributed to the overall result.
34. *Ms. Divina B. Ignacio*, the representative from the Philippines inquired about the division in the Evaluation Criteria, noting that 90% of the marks are allocated to questions on the project, with 5% assigned to the report presentation and 5% to overall comments. She felt that this distribution may not fully reflect the quality and achievements of the project, and suggested reconsideration of the weightage to ensure a more balanced evaluation.
35. *Ms. Lim* remarked that, since the evaluators themselves had assessed the project, the evaluation results should instead be interpreted using the five criteria applied in the questionnaire: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Her idea was accepted by the Meeting.
36. *Ms. Divina B. Ignacio*, concurred with *Ms. Lim's* idea that the results of the evaluation should be presented by categories. She further suggested that evaluators be provided with the scores they had assigned, to allow them to review on their own assessments.
37. *Mr. Ryon* suggested that the grading system be revised using a 25-basis points interval (0, 25, 50, 75, 100) in line with the Likert scale used in the questionnaire to better reflect the achievements and outcomes of the project.
38. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* briefly explained the initial draft outline for the Terminal Evaluation Report (TER), providing an overview of its structure and key components.
39. The Meeting was advised that AMSs may review the first draft of the TER starting 23 August 2026, with the review period concluding at the end of the month (August 2026).

40. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* presented the revised initial draft, which applied scoring across three categories. He explained that, in line with the standard practice of UNDP, World Bank, and OECD DAC, the six-point rating scale was consolidated into three levels of assessment. A score ranging from 1% to 59.66% indicates a Low rating level, a score of exactly 60% reflects a Moderate rating level, while scores from 60.01% to 100% represent a high rating level.
41. *Ms. Divina B. Ignacio*, elaborated on the five levels of rating for the score. Since the evaluation applied a 1–5 scale, the corresponding rating levels were defined as follows: 1% to 20% indicates Very Low Satisfactory, 21% to 40% indicates Low Satisfactory, 41% to 60% indicates Moderate Satisfactory, 61% to 80% indicates High Satisfactory, and 81% to 100% indicates Highly Satisfactory. Accordingly, the newly calculated score of 86.84 falls within the Highly Satisfactory category. The Meeting accepted the newly proposed rating levels.
42. *Mr. Jamil Musel* from FRI Bintawa, Sarawak inquired if the fishing capacity project needed to follow the evaluation model in the future, *Prof Dr Che Azlan* replied that the model is an idea for guidelines and not a standard model.
43. *Dr. Yumiko Kaneko* from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) Management Team suggested it is better to use a standard model from a literature review for evaluation and asked whether there is any literature available. *Prof. Dr Che Azlan* explained that most related organizations use these five pillars (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability) to assess project evaluation. This idea will cite the literature if available and explain why this project will use this model as justification.
44. *Mr. Muhammad Febrianoer*, the representative from Indonesia suggested that the section on Overall Comments be placed in the Annex rather than in the main body of the report after being reviewed and confirmed by the AMSs. *Ms. Lim* concurred with this suggestion and further proposed to separate the comments into two categories: comments on the project implementation and comments on the impacts or outcomes of the project. She also suggested that comments on the impacts or outcomes of the project be shared with *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* to be incorporated where appropriate as part of the recommendations in the Terminal Report.
45. *Mr. Sallehudin Jamon* from FRI Kampung Acheh suggested reviewing the graphs by adding a secondary axis (average) on the revised draft to ensure the accuracy of the figure.
46. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* suggested replacing the Fishing Capacity Model with the conclusion on five pillars of project evaluation of the project, to summarise the performance of the project based on findings.

VII. THE LESSON LEARNED AND PROJECT CHALLENGES

47. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* presented ‘Agenda 7: The Project challenges and Lessons Learned’. She outlined the key challenges encountered during project implementation, highlighted the lessons gained from these experiences, and proposed strategic solutions to be incorporated into future planning. Her presentation appears as **Annex 9**.
48. *Ms. Divina B. Ignacio*, remarked that the Philippines has sometimes sent different focal points to the meetings, and attendance has occasionally been a challenge. She therefore suggested that the meetings also be conducted in hybrid format, to facilitate participation, common understanding and ensure continuity of representation. *Mr. Ruzaidi* agreed with the suggestion, noting that it would help ensure consistency of participation and follow-up.
49. *Dr. Yumiko Kaneko* explained the administrative process of the project. She noted that JMT provides support during the project formulation stage. After that, responsibility for project management is transferred to the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Directorate (FAFD) of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC). Therefore, maintaining close communication with FAFD is essential for effective project administration.
50. During the discussion on data sharing policy, it was noted that some AMSs have strict regulations on data sharing. *Ms. Lim* emphasized the importance of involving the appropriate fisheries officers in the development of the questionnaire, as they are not only aware of the level of data sharing permitted but also know whether specific data is readily available. *Ms. Divina* concurred, stressing the need for broader participation during the formulation of the questionnaire, since in the Philippines, for example, data collection involves multiple divisions or departments. It was therefore recommended to ensure wider participation in the questionnaire development process.
51. *Ms. Sawitree* shared that SEAFDEC publishes *The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SEASOFIA) every five years. Drawing from annual data submitted to SEAFDEC by AMSs under the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia, SEASOFIA analyzes regional fisheries production and addresses critical sector issues. The next edition is scheduled for publication in 2027.
52. *Mr. Ruzaidi* queried whether *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* required more information than that provided by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in SEASOFIA. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* explained that in the project’s first output, information on the national fishing capacity profile is included. In the questionnaire, however, only basic data were requested, such as the number of fishing vessels and landing trends, whether they increased, decreased, or remained unchanged. She further noted that certain data, such as the number of fishing vessels and the volume of fish landings, are considered confidential in some countries.
53. *Mr. Buoy Roitana*, noted that there is some confusion regarding data sharing in this project. So far AMS only agrees to share information from vessels longer than 24 meters or equivalent. Currently, AMS are discussing sharing more information on characteristics of fishing vessels longer than 15 meters or equivalent. He emphasized that the current project output includes too many parameters such as fishing capacity, socio-economic, and environmental data, which should instead be discussed in a separate forum. *Mr. Ruzaidi*

responded that this project focuses only on general information, and he agreed that any detailed data should indeed be addressed in a separate forum. *Ms. Lim* added that AMS annually submits fisheries information to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and FAO for fisheries statistics. Through this project, it is possible to identify which data are readily available from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, while any unavailable data can be further discussed by the AMS statistical focal persons to determine whether they can be shared.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

54. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* presented ‘Agenda 8: Future Direction and Recommendations’. She shared that the inputs were gained during the previous Regional Technical Consultations. Her presentation appears as **Annex 10**.
55. *Dr. Pavarot* suggested that the stock assessment course should incorporate fundamental concepts of fish population dynamics, including fish growth, mortality, and recruitment. He further noted that a course focusing exclusively on stock assessment could be too technical for fishers and fisheries communities.
56. *Mr. Muhammad Febrianoer* inquired about the technical support that SEAFDEC could provide to countries that have not yet developed their NPOA. *Dr. Supamong* responded that such countries may submit a request for technical support to SEAFDEC, which will provide assistance particularly in the area of stock assessment capacity building. *Miss Lim* suggested that such requirements be included as part of proposed capacity building programs for further considerations.
57. *Dr. Pavarot* suggested that the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Stock Assessment for Neritic Tunas be given a more general name, rather than one specific to Neritic Tuna, to better reflect its broader scope and inclusivity. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida* explained that the SWG on Neritic Tuna has already been established, and therefore it would be easier to build common ground and strengthen technical capacity under the existing framework. *Miss Lim* suggested that this could be brought to the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Stock Assessment for Neritic Tunas in their future meetings for consideration.

IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

58. *Ms. Mazalina* delivered the closing remarks on behalf of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD. Her closing remarks appear as **Annex 11**.
59. *Dr. Yumiko Kaneko* delivered the closing remarks on behalf of JMT. Her closing remarks appear as **Annex 12**.
60. *Mr. Ruzaidi* delivered the closing remarks on behalf of DOF Malaysia. His closing remarks appear as **Annex 13**.

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OPENING ADDRESS

The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
12-14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia.

by *Dr. Masahito Hirota*, Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

YBhg Dato' Haji Azahari bin Haji Othman, Deputy Director General Department of Fisheries
Malaysia,
Mr. Kosaburo Shimose, First Secretary, Mission of Japan to ASEAN,
Mr. Naoki Minamiguchi, Director, Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Management Team,
Ms. Yumiko Kaneko, Program Coordinator, JAIF Management Team,
Prof. Che Azlan Taib, Resource Person from Universiti Utara Malaysia
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida Mat Piah, Resource Person from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu,
Dr. Abdullah Mohamad, Resource Person from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu,
Representatives from Brunei Darussalam,
Representatives from Cambodia,
Representatives from Indonesia,
Representatives from Malaysia,
Representatives from Myanmar,
Representatives from Philippine,
Representatives from Thailand,
Representatives from Vietnam,
Representatives from SEAFDEC,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Very Good morning.

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, to warmly welcome all of you to this
meeting, here in the historic and beautiful city, Melaka, Malaysia.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all distinguished participants
for taking the time to join us at this important Meeting, in person and virtually.

I would also like to convey our deepest appreciation to the Government of Japan, through the
ASEAN-Japan Integration Fund (JAIF), for its support and for its continued commitment to
regional cooperation and capacity development in the ASEAN region. My sincere thanks to all
participating ASEAN Member States for your valuable cooperation and technical contributions
over the past two years.

This final meeting marks an important milestone as the implementation of the ASEAN Regional
Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity or RPOA-Capacity, which provides an
important regional framework for promoting sustainable fisheries management.

As we know, sustainable management is becoming increasingly important for the ASEAN region.
And fisheries resources are influenced by environmental and human factors. Especially, we have

faced complex challenges, such as climate change or global warming. It's also essential challenge for the ASEAN members. We should make every possible effort to overcome the difficulties; this project is also one of the contributions to solving these challenges.

We are deeply grateful for the strong support and active cooperation by all ASEAN Member States throughout this project implementation.

There is another important concept that it's relevant to our discussion today: means the concept of the "commons". In simple words, "commons" refers to a jointly used and managed by multiple people, communities, or societies. **In the context of fisheries science, the word is used specifically to mean "shared resources" or "common-pool resources." managed in cooperation with each other.**

"The commons" can be used the meaning of cooperatively managed by many communities and countries, and their sustainability is closely inter-connected across national boundaries. For this reason, the responsible management of fisheries resources requires us to look beyond individual interests or benefits, and consider our shared responsibilities towards the region and towards future generations. I believe that this concept carries an important message for ASEAN.

Sustainability can only be achieved through mutual understanding, trust, cooperation and a shared commitment to the "commons". In this sense, fisheries cooperation is not only about managing resources, it is also about building a bridge among countries, mutual understanding, and fostering a spirit of partnership.

I sincerely hope that our discussions will further strengthen our understanding and contribution to the future well-being and good health of our people.

As this project comes to this important stage, I hope that we can take this opportunity to consider how to use the knowledge, experiences and the outcome, and how can be carried forward and translated into meaningful actions and future initiatives.

In particular, this Meeting will generate practical ideas, recommendations, and approaches that can support ASEAN Member States in strengthening the management of fishing capacity.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan and JAIF for their support, as well as to all participating ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC Secretariat, our resource persons, and everyone who has contributed to the successful implementation of this project. Your commitment, cooperation and contributions have been instrumental to the progress and achievements of this regional initiative.

I hope that, during your stay, you have a good opportunity to experience the rich history, vibrant culture, and warm hospitality of Melaka.

Once again, on behalf of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, I warmly welcome all of you to Melaka, Malaysia.

Thank you very much

OPENING ADDRESS

The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

12-14 August 2026

Melaka, Malaysia.

by *Mr. Kosaburo Shimose*, First Secretary of Mission of Japan to ASEAN

Mr./madam Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

My name is Kosaburo Shimose, First Secretary at the Mission of Japan to ASEAN.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, it is a great pleasure to deliver these opening remarks at the Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity).

First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, the ASEAN Secretariat, and all representatives and national focal points from ASEAN Member States for their tremendous efforts and close cooperation throughout this project.

Through three regional questionnaires, four Regional Technical Consultations, and a series of technical workshops, the project has collected, compiled, analysed and assessed a wide range of information from ASEAN Member States, including the status of implementation of the RPOA-Capacity, fishing capacity, stock status, and fisheries information systems. Given the diversity of national systems and data availability across Member States, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the sustained efforts of all involved in coordinating this work and bringing the project to this concluding evaluation meeting.

Fisheries in Southeast Asia play a vital role not only in supporting regional food security, livelihoods and economies, but also in contributing to the international supply of fish and fishery products. Ensuring the sustainable use of these resources and their stable supply for future generations is therefore important for ASEAN and beyond.

Transboundary fishery resources cannot be effectively managed by any single country alone. Accordingly, sharing information and experiences and strengthening regional cooperation are essential for their sustainable management.

From this perspective, the Government of Japan is pleased to have supported this project through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

Japan highly appreciates that this project has gone beyond an assessment of the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity. It has strengthened fisheries information systems; developed simple, practical indicators for the sustainable management of pelagic fisheries; and documented conservation and management measures adopted by participating ASEAN Member States. These achievements provide an important foundation for evidence-based fisheries management and for further strengthening regional cooperation.

This project also falls under the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan. Under this Plan, Japan and ASEAN are working together toward sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, and this project makes an important contribution to the sound management of fishery resources.

ASEAN has also entered a new phase under the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026–2030 (FAF-SP). The new Plan clearly identifies the promotion of sustainable fisheries as a priority, including preventing overfishing and maintaining healthy fish stocks through ecosystem-based fisheries management and sustainable fishing practices.

The completion of this project should not mark the end of our efforts. What matters now is how the information, knowledge and experience gained can be translated into concrete actions under the FAF-SP, and into further improvements in fisheries management across ASEAN.

I understand that today's meeting will not only review the project's achievements; it will also identify implementation challenges and lessons learned, and discuss strategic recommendations and follow-up actions to guide future regional cooperation. I hope our discussions today will provide a valuable opportunity to translate the project's achievements into concrete actions for the future.

As a long-standing partner of ASEAN, Japan remains committed to supporting ASEAN's efforts to achieve sustainable fisheries and food security, including through the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan.

Finally, I once again extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this project.

Thank you very much

OPENING REMARKS

The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

12-14 August 2026

Melaka, Malaysia.

by *YBhg Dato' Haji Azahari bin Haji Othman*, Deputy Director General of Fisheries (Development) of Department of Fisheries Malaysia

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh and good morning, everyone.

First of all, I would like to warmly welcome all distinguished participants to Malaysia, and in particular to Melaka, for the **“Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, or RPOA-Capacity”**.

On behalf of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, I am pleased to welcome Mr. Kosaburo Shimose, First Secretary of Japan Mission to ASEAN, Mr. Naoki Minamiguchi, Director of Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Management Team (JMT) and Ms. Yumiko Kaneko, the Program Coordinator from JMT, Ms. Sawitree Chamsai from SEAFDEC Secretariat and Dr. Supapong Pattarapongpan from SEAFDEC Training Department, Dr. Masahito Hirota, Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, representatives from the ASEAN Member States, resource persons and all other participants to this meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to JAIF for the financial support provided towards this Project. I would also like to thank the ASEAN Secretariat for its continued support and cooperation in strengthening regional collaboration in fisheries.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, as the Lead Department, for its commitment and efforts in coordinating and implementing this Project. My appreciation also goes to all participating ASEAN Member States, resource persons and the Project Team for their valuable contributions throughout the implementation of the Project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fisheries sector is important to all of us in ASEAN. It supports food security, provides livelihoods to our coastal communities, and contributes to the economies of our countries. At the same time, we are facing increasing challenges in managing our fisheries resources. These include overfishing, IUU fishing, environmental changes, and the impacts of climate change. We also recognise that ASEAN Member States have different circumstances, management systems and capacities in terms of fisheries monitoring and information. For us in ASEAN, these are challenges that we cannot address individually. This makes regional cooperation even more important, particularly in sharing information, experiences, and practical approaches in managing our fisheries resources.

This is one of the important areas that the RPOA-Capacity Project has sought to support. Through the Project, ASEAN Member States have had opportunities to exchange experiences, improve our understanding of fishing capacity management and strengthen cooperation in the management of pelagic fisheries.

For Malaysia, this Project is particularly meaningful as Malaysia is the Lead Country, while SEAFDEC/MFRDMD is the Lead Department.

The development of this Project has been a long process. There were discussions and coordination among the relevant parties before the project paper was finalised and the Project could move towards implementation. Despite the long process, we are pleased that the Project was successfully commenced in 2024 and is now coming to an end in 2026. I believe this is an achievement that we should recognise. It reflects the commitment and cooperation of the ASEAN Member States, SEAFDEC, the ASEAN Secretariat, JAIF and all who are involved in taking the Project from the planning stage to actual implementation.

During the implementation of the Project, a number of activities were carried out to support the objectives of the RPOA-Capacity. These included regional questionnaires, Regional Technical Consultations, and technical workshops. The Project also provided opportunities to strengthen fisheries information, share national experiences and develop practical approaches to support sustainable management of pelagic fisheries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we are now approaching the completion of the Project, I believe this meeting comes at the right time. This is a good opportunity for us to look back at the work that has been carried out, to discuss what has worked well, and also to be open about the challenges that we have faced during implementation. More importantly, I hope our discussions will help us identify lessons that can be carried forward and practical recommendations for the future.

This is also in line with the objectives of this meeting, particularly in reviewing the overall achievements of the Project, identifying implementation challenges, and discussing opportunities for future regional initiatives.

I also believe that the completion of this Project should not mean the end of our cooperation on fishing capacity management. The experiences and knowledge gained through this Project should continue to be useful to ASEAN Member States. We should look at how we can maintain the momentum, continue sharing information and experiences, and further strengthen cooperation under the RPOA-Capacity.

I hope that our discussions will lead to practical recommendations that can be useful to our respective countries, while also supporting stronger regional cooperation in addressing fisheries management challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, once again, I would like to thank JAIF, the ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, all ASEAN Member States, resource persons and the Project Team for your contributions and support throughout the implementation of this Project. I also hope that all of you will have a productive meeting over the next three days, and that we will have good discussions and meaningful outcomes from this evaluation. I hope you will also have a pleasant stay in Melaka. Thank you.

 Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity 12–14 August 2026 Melaka, Malaysia AGENDA 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND INTRODUCTION TO THE MEETING By: Ms. Mazalina binti Ali Project Coordinator, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD  	Meeting at a Glance Date: 12–14 August 2026 Venue: Melaka, Malaysia Participants: • ASEAN Member States • SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments • JAFI Management Team • Department of Fisheries Malaysia • Resource Persons • SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Project Team Format: Hybrid – Physical & Virtual Participation Working Language: English
Objectives of the Meeting  Review and evaluate the overall implementation achievement and performance of the Project  Identify lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for improving future regional initiatives  Review and provide comments on the Draft Project Terminal Report and Draft Evaluation  Formulate strategic recommendations and follow-up actions to strengthen the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity and regional cooperation	Expected Outputs By the end of the Meeting, we aim to achieve: Validated Project Achievements A common understanding of the Project's implementation status, achievements and contributions. Documented Lessons Learned Key lessons, challenges and opportunities identified for future initiatives. Finalized Key Documents Draft Terminal Report and Draft Evaluation Report reviewed and refined. Agreed Recommendations Strategic recommendations and follow-up actions identified to support the RPOA-Capacity.

Proposed Agenda

1. Opening Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Introduction to the Meeting
3. Project Overview
4. Review of Draft Terminal Report
5. Evaluation of Project Performance
6. Review of the Draft Evaluation Report
7. Lessons Learned and Implementation Challenges
8. Future Direction and Recommendations
9. Closing Session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Day 1 (12 August 2026, Wednesday)	
Moderator: Mr. Muhammad Amirullah Al Amin bin Ayob	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of Participants
Agenda 1: Opening Session	
Welcome Remarks by Deputy Chief of SEADEC/MFRDMD	
09:00 – 10:00	Remarks by First Secretary, Mission of Japan to ASEAN
Opening Remarks by Deputy Director General, Department of Fisheries Malaysia	
10:00 – 10:30	Group Photograph
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Introduction to the Meeting	
Chairperson: Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, DOF Malaysia	
11:00 – 11:10	Introduction of Participants
11:10 – 11:20	Adoption of the Agenda and Introduction to the Meeting by Ms Mazalina binti Ali, Project Coordinator
Agenda 3: Project Overview	
11:20 – 11:40	Presentation on Project Implementation and Key Achievements by Project Coordinator
Agenda 4: Review of Draft Terminal Report	
11:40 – 13:00	Presentation of Draft Terminal Report by Resource Persons
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:30	Review and Discussion on the Draft Terminal Report
Facilitators: Resource Persons	
16:30 – 17:00	Tea Break

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Day 2 (13 August 2026, Thursday)	
Chairperson: Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, DOF Malaysia	
Co-Chair: Project Coordinator	
Agenda 5: Evaluation of Project Performance	
09:00 – 10:30	Evaluation of Project Performance and Achievements
Facilitators: Resource Persons	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	Discussion on Project Performance
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break
Agenda 6: Review of the Draft Evaluation Report	
14:30 – 16:30	Review and Discussion on the Draft Evaluation Report
Facilitators: Resource Persons	
16:30 – 17:00	Tea Break

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Day 3 (14 August 2026, Friday)	
Chairperson: Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, DOF Malaysia	
Co-Chair: Project Coordinator	
Agenda 7: Lessons Learned and Implementation Challenges	
09:00 – 10:00	Discussion on Lessons Learned and Project Implementation Challenges
10:00 – 10:30	Facilitators: Resource Persons
	Coffee Break
Agenda 8: Future Direction and Recommendations	
10:30 – 12:30	Discussion on Future Recommendations and Follow-up Actions
12:30 – 14:30	Facilitators: Resource Persons
	Lunch Break

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Agenda 9: Closing Session	
14:30 – 15:30	Preparation of Draft Meeting Report
15:30 – 16:00	by Meeting Secretariat
16:00 – 16:30	Tea Break
16:30 – 17:00	Adoption of the Meeting Report
	Closing Remarks
	by JAIF Management Team
	by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
	by DOF Malaysia
17:00	Meeting Adjourns

Working Arrangements & Participation

Chairperson: Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division,
Department of Fisheries Malaysia

Co-Chair: Project Coordinator, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

Facilitators: Resource Persons

Meeting Secretariat: SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Project Team

We encourage participants to:

- Share national experiences and perspectives;
- Provide constructive comments and recommendations;
- Highlight implementation challenges and lessons learned;
- Contribute to the refinement of the Project reports; and
- Identify practical follow-up actions.

Terima Kasih

Thank You



The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

12-14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia

PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

1. Background

Pelagic fisheries play a vital role in Southeast Asia by contributing significantly to food security, livelihoods, marine capture fisheries production, and regional economic development. However, the sustainability of these fisheries continues to face growing challenges, including overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, habitat degradation, climate change, and disparities in fisheries management, monitoring, and data collection among ASEAN Member States (AMSs). These challenges highlight the importance of strengthened regional cooperation and coordinated management of shared fisheries resources.

To address these challenges, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (SEAFDEC/MFRDMD), with financial support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), has been implementing the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) project since April 2024. The Project support the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity by enhancing regional cooperation, improving fisheries information systems, and promoting the sustainable management of selected pelagic fisheries. The Project involves the participation of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Throughout its implementation, three sets of regional questionnaires were developed and completed by participating AMSs, four Regional Technical Consultations (RTCs), and a series of technical workshops were successfully convened. The Project has generated valuable regional information on the status of RPOA-Capacity implementation, strengthened fisheries information systems, developed simple and practical indicators for sustainable pelagic fisheries management, documented conservation and management strategies adopted by participating AMSs, and produced a series of technical publications to support evidence-based fisheries management and regional policy development.

As the Project approaches its completion, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD will convene the Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity. The Meeting will provide a platform for participating AMSs, the ASEAN Secretariat, JAIF, SEAFDEC, and other relevant stakeholders to review and evaluate the overall implementation and achievement of the Project, validate its key outputs and deliverables, identify lessons learned and implementation challenges, and formulate strategic recommendations to strengthen regional cooperation on the sustainable management of fishing capacity in Southeast Asia.

2. Objectives

The Meeting aims to:

- a. Review and evaluate the overall implementation, achievement, and performance of the Project,
- b. Identify key lessons learned, implementation challenges, and opportunities for improving future regional initiatives on the management of fishing capacity,
- c. Review and provide comments on the draft Project Terminal Report and the Draft End-of-Project Evaluation Report,
- d. Formulate strategic recommendations and strengthen collaboration among AMSs to support the effective implementation of the RPOA-Capacity and address common and transboundary fisheries management challenges.

3. Expected Outputs

The Meeting is expected to achieve the following outputs:

- a. The implementation status, key achievements, and overall contributions of the Project are reviewed and validated,
- b. Key lessons learned, implementation challenges, and opportunities for improvement are identified and documented to support the planning and implementation of future regional initiatives,
- c. The Draft Project Terminal Report and the Draft End-of-Project Evaluation Report are reviewed, refined, and endorsed for finalization,
- d. Strategic recommendations and follow-up actions are formulated to strengthen the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity, enhance regional cooperation among AMSs, and promote **the sustainable management of pelagic fisheries in Southeast Asia.**

4. Date and Venue

The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity will be held from 12th to 14th August 2026 in Melaka, Malaysia.

5. Meeting Format

The Meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, allowing participants to attend either in person or virtually.

6. Participants

The meeting is expected to be attended by:

- a. Resource persons,
- b. Representatives from AMSs participating in the Project,
- c. Representatives from the JAIF Management Team (JMT),
- d. Representatives from ASEAN Secretariat,
- e. Representatives from SEAFDEC Secretariat,
- f. Representatives from relevant SEAFDEC Departments
- g. Officials from the Department of Fisheries Malaysia,
- h. SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Project Team and Secretariat.

7. Working Language

The meeting will be conducted in English.

8. Financial Arrangements

Financial support for invited participants will be provided by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD under the Project, in accordance with SEAFDEC's rules and procedures, and will include:

- Round-trip economy-class airfare;
- Hotel accommodation; and
- Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

9. Tentative Agenda

Agenda 1: Opening Session

The Opening Session will commence with welcoming remarks by the Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, followed by opening remarks and the official opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, highlighting the significance of regional cooperation in strengthening the suitable management of fishing capacity in Southeast Asia.

Agenda 2: Adoption of Agenda and Introduction to the Meeting

Participants will consider and adopt the Meeting agenda. An overview of the Meeting objectives, expected outputs, programme, and working arrangements will be presented.

Agenda 3: Overview of the Project Implementation and Key Achievements

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD will present an overview of the Project, including its background, objectives, implementation framework, major activities undertaken, key milestones achieved, and outputs delivered. The presentation will also highlight the Project's contributions towards the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity).

Agenda 4: Evaluation of Project Performance, Outcomes, and Achievements

Participants will review and evaluate the overall performance and outcomes of the Project, including its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, achievements, and contributions towards strengthening fisheries management, regional cooperation, and the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity.

Agenda 5: Review and Discussion of the Draft Project Terminal Reports and the Draft Executive Summary

Participants will review and discuss the Draft Project Terminal Report and Draft Executive Summary. Comments, recommendations, and inputs from participants will be considered to ensure the accuracy, completeness, and relevance of the documents prior to finalization.

Agenda 6: Future Directions and Way Forward

Participants will discuss future directions and follow-up actions to sustain the achievements of the Projects and further strengthen the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity). The session will also provide an opportunity to identify potential areas for future collaboration and regional initiatives on sustainable fisheries management.

Agenda 7: Closing Session

The Meeting will conclude with a summary of the key outcomes, conclusions, and agreed follow-up actions arising from the discussions. Closing remarks will be delivered by the Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, followed by the official closure of the Meeting.

Secretariat and Correspondence

All correspondence regarding the meeting should be addressed to:

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The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

**12-14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

11 August 2026 (Tuesday)	
15:00 –	Check-in hotel
Day 1 (12 August 2026, Wednesday) <i>Moderator: Mr. Muhammad Amirullah Al Amin bin Ayob</i>	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of Participants
Agenda 1: Opening Session	
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome Remarks by Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Remarks by First Secretary, Mission of Japan to ASEAN Opening Remarks by Deputy Director General, Department of Fisheries Malaysia
10:00 – 10:30	Group Photograph
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Introduction to the Meeting <i>Chairperson: Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, DOF Malaysia</i> <i>Co-Chair: Project Coordinator</i>	
11:00 – 11:10	Introduction of Participants
11:10 – 11:20	Adoption of the Agenda and Introduction to the Meeting <i>by Ms Mazalina binti Ali, Project Coordinator</i>
Agenda 3: Project Overview	
11:20 – 11:40	Presentation on Project Implementation and Key Achievements <i>by Project Coordinator</i>
Agenda 4: Review of Draft Terminal Report	
11:40 – 13:00	Presentation of Draft Terminal Report <i>by Resource Persons</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:30	Review and Discussion on the Draft Terminal Report <i>Facilitators: Resource Persons</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Tea Break

Day 2 (13 August 2026, Thursday) Chairperson: Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, DOF Malaysia Co-Chair: Project Coordinator	
Agenda 5: Evaluation of Project Performance	
09:00 – 10:30	Evaluation of Project Performance and Achievements <i>Facilitators: Resource Persons</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	Discussion on Project Performance
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break
Agenda 6: Review of the Draft Evaluation Report	
14:30 – 16:30	Review and Discussion on the Draft Evaluation Report <i>Facilitators: Resource Persons</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Tea Break
Day 3 (14 August 2026, Friday) Chairperson: Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, DOF Malaysia Co-Chair: Project Coordinator	
Agenda 7: Lessons Learned and Implementation Challenges	
09:00 – 10:00	Discussion on Lessons Learned and Project Implementation Challenges <i>Facilitators: Resource Persons</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break
Agenda 8: Future Direction and Recommendations	
10:30 – 12:30	Discussion on Future Recommendations and Follow-up Actions <i>Facilitators: Resource Persons</i>
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
Agenda 9: Closing Session	
14:30 – 15:30	Preparation of Draft Meeting Report <i>by Meeting Secretariat</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Tea Break
16:00 – 16:30	Adoption of the Meeting Report
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Remarks <i>by JAIF Management Team</i> <i>by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD</i> <i>by DOF Malaysia</i>
17:00	Meeting Adjourns
15 August (Saturday)	
08:00 – 12:00	Check-out hotel

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

BY: MAZALINA ALI
SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
12.08.2026

PROJECT BACKGROUND

FISHERIES MATTER. SOUTHEAST ASIA DELIVERS.

Fish and fishery products are becoming increasingly important as primary sources of protein for many people in the world, most especially for those in the Southeast Asian region.

1 A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO GLOBAL FISHERY PRODUCTION

In 2021, Southeast Asia accounted for approximately 21% of the total global fishery production.

2 FACING LONG-TERM CHALLENGES, WITH SHORT-TERM RECOVERY

Sustainable fishery production is facing long-term challenges, with projected catches declining significantly due to overfishing and climate change, though there was a short-term recovery in 2024 following a marginal decline in 2023.

3 OVERFISHING REPORTED SINCE THE 1970s

Overfishing in Southeast Asia's coastal waters has been reported since the 1970s, threatening the sustainability of fishery resources.

4 OUR FUTURE, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Sustainable fisheries today ensure food security, livelihoods, and a healthy ocean for generations to come.

LEADING PRODUCERS

The region is a leading producer with

21%

of the total global fishery production.

INDONESIA **VIETNAM**

leading major contributors.

OUR FUTURE, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Sustainable fisheries today ensure food security, livelihoods, and a healthy ocean for generations to come.

OUR FUTURE, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Sustainable fisheries today ensure food security, livelihoods, and a healthy ocean for generations to come.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

PROJECT DURATION

2 years
 (April 2024 to April 2026, No-Cost Extension until October 2026)

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To enhance ASEAN cooperation and facilitate the improvement of regional fishery information systems/mechanisms through implementation of RPQA Capacity in the selected pilot species fisheries management towards resource sustainability and environmental well-being.

INVOLEMENT

All ASEAN Member States (AMSs) except Lao PDR and Timor Leste

OUTCOME

Assessment on the implementation of ASEAN RPQA with regards to the management of the fishing capacity and regional fishery information systems/mechanisms is available.

DONOR

Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)

ALIGNED WITH THE

- Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 No. 7 and 8
- Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Towards 2030 under A Planning and Information, and B Fisheries Management

SUPPORTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG GOAL 14

"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"

31

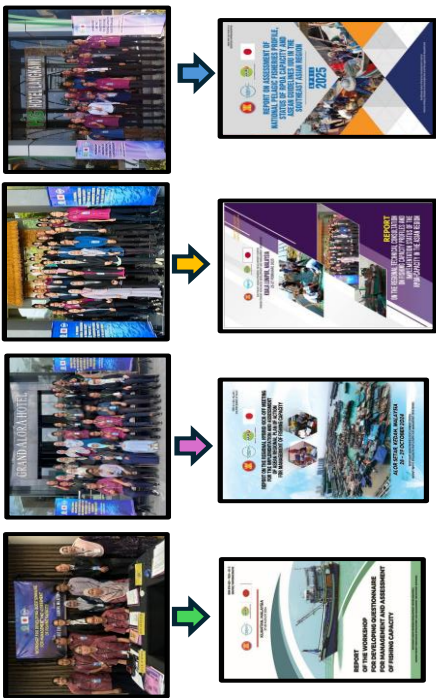


PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



OUTPUT 1

The status of the implementation of RPOA Capacity in AMSs is assessed through survey conducted in AMSs

<table><tr><th></th><th colspan="3">2024</th><th colspan="3">2025</th><th colspan="3">2026</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Q3</th><th>Q4</th><th></th><th>Q1</th><th>Q2</th><th>Q3</th><th>Q4</th><th>Q1</th><th>Q2</th><th>Q3</th></tr><tr><td>Outputs 1: The status of the implementation of RPOA-Capacity in AMSs is assessed through the survey conducted in AMS</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Activity 1: Management and Assessment of Fishing Capacity</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sub-Activity 1.1: Workshop for Developing Questionnaire for Management and Assessment of Fishing Capacity</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>27-29 Aug 2024</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sub-Activity 1.2: Regional Hybrid Kick-Off Meeting and Finalization of the Questionnaire</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>28-29 Oct 2024</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sub-Activity 1.3: Workshop on the Analysis of the Regional Fishing Capacity Questionnaire</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>9-12 Apr 2025</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sub-Activity 1.4: Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Fishing Capacity Profiles and Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity in the Asian Region</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>25-27 Feb 2025</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		2024			2025			2026				Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Outputs 1: The status of the implementation of RPOA-Capacity in AMSs is assessed through the survey conducted in AMS											Activity 1: Management and Assessment of Fishing Capacity											Sub-Activity 1.1: Workshop for Developing Questionnaire for Management and Assessment of Fishing Capacity	X											27-29 Aug 2024										Sub-Activity 1.2: Regional Hybrid Kick-Off Meeting and Finalization of the Questionnaire		X											28-29 Oct 2024									Sub-Activity 1.3: Workshop on the Analysis of the Regional Fishing Capacity Questionnaire				X											9-12 Apr 2025							Sub-Activity 1.4: Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Fishing Capacity Profiles and Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity in the Asian Region				X											25-27 Feb 2025							• Output 1 employed questionnaire surveys as its primary method for collecting information and perspectives from AMS representatives. • Although the output was designed to assess the implementation status of the RPOA Capacity within AMSs, three (3) sets of questionnaires were developed, entitled: (i) National Fishing Capacity Profiles for Pelagic Fisheries (ii) Implementation status of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA Capacity) (iii) Implementation status of ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain (ASEAN Guidelines IUU) • During the kick-off meeting (Activity 1.2), it was recommended that the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) (Activity 1.4) be conducted prior to the analysis of feedback (Activity 1.3). ➢ This sequencing was considered essential, as the consultation provided a platform to validate the questionnaire responses directly with AMS representatives • Accordingly, the first RTC was held in February 2025, prior to the analysis of the three sets of questionnaire feedback.
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Sub-Activity 4.3: Workshop on the Analysis of Regional Management Strategies of Selected Pelagic Fisheries Resources in AMSs Questionnaire							X 6-8 Jan 2026																																																																
GROUP PHOTO AND THE PUBLISHED REPORTS   	 OUTPUT 5 Terminal report is prepared and published																																																																						

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- The project midterm and terminal evaluations were comprehensive review exercises involving fisheries experts and key stakeholders guided by resource persons.
- The midterm evaluation was held in April 2025, halfway through the project, while the terminal evaluation—originally scheduled for April 2026—was conducted in August 2026 following the No-Cost Extension.
- Both evaluations assessed project implementation, technical progress, and effectiveness in meeting objectives.
- The methodology combined qualitative and quantitative techniques, including questionnaires, consultations, and stakeholder discussions, to ensure a thorough and credible assessment.

	2024				2025				2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Output 6: Project monitoring and evaluation are conducted											
Activity 6: Project monitoring and evaluation											
Sub-Activity 6.1: Midterm Review and Evaluation Meeting				X 22-24 Apr 2025							
Sub-Activity 6.2: Project terminal review and evaluation workshop											X 12-14 August 1 2026



WAY FORWARD

❖ There is only one remaining activity — Activity 5.4 (Finalization of the Terminal Report) — which is scheduled for 9–11 September 2026.

❖ A few reports are scheduled to be published:

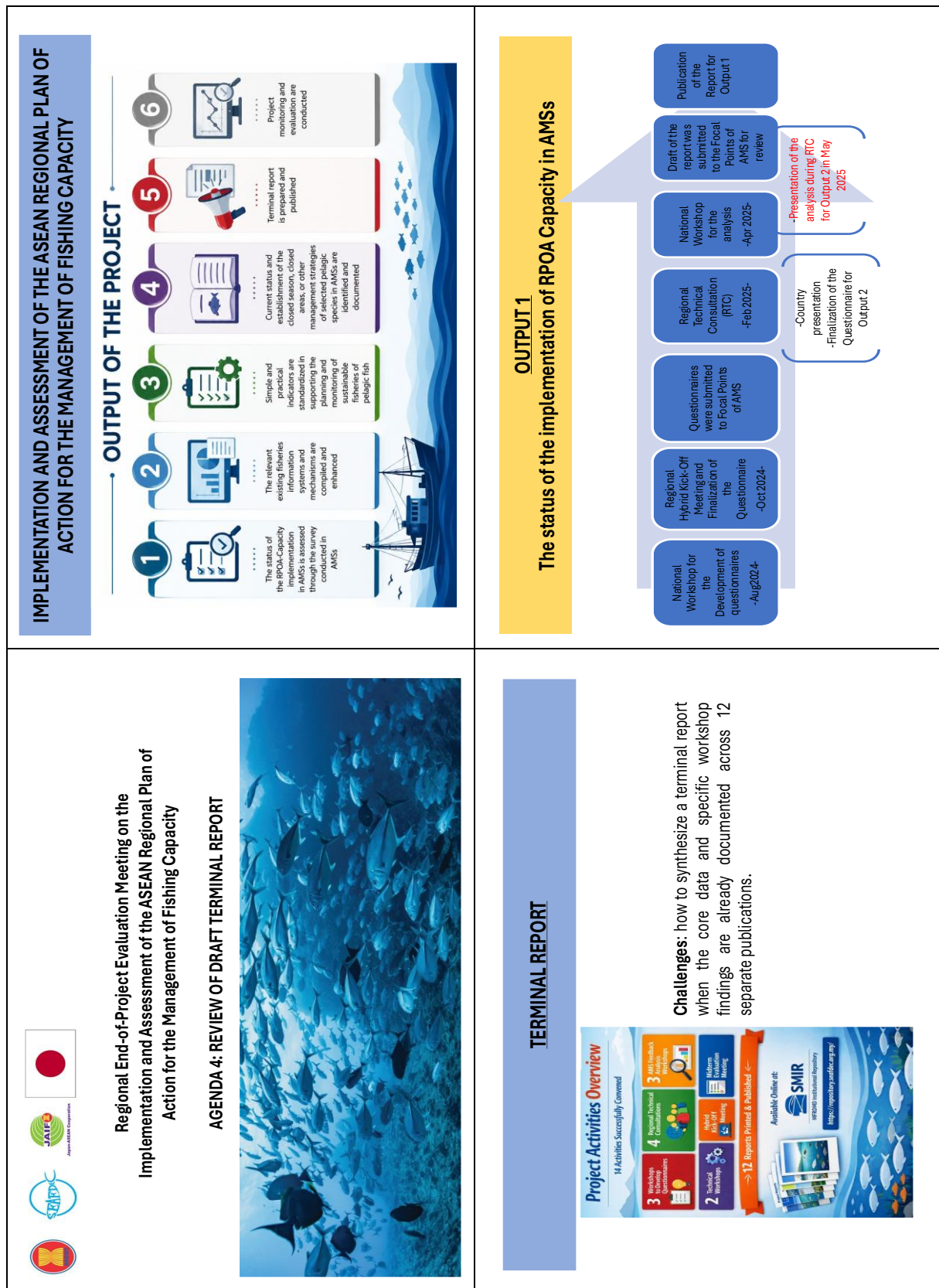
- ✓ Project Terminal Report
- ✓ End-of-Project Evaluation Report
- ✓ Project Highlights and Pictorial Coffee Table Book

❖ The Project Final Report is to be submitted to JALF no later than 21 October 2026

THE END

TERIMA KASIH





OUTPUT 1

The status of the implementation of RPOA Capacity in AMSs



Updated assessment on national implementation status of:

- National pelagic fisheries profiles
- ASEAN RPOA-Capacity
- ASEAN Guidelines IUU

FOR TERMINAL REPORT:

- Key points/summary of the findings

OUTPUT 2

The relevant existing fisheries information systems and mechanism are compiled and enhanced



Inventory of existing national information systems/mechanisms across ASEAN Member States (AMSs). The review focused on:

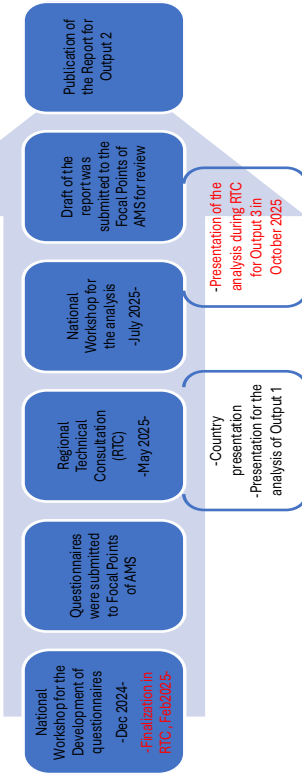
- Available data types (biological, socio-economic, effort, catch)
- Existing database structures and formats
- Integration of information across agencies
- Strengths and limitations of current systems

FOR TERMINAL REPORT:

- Key points/summary of the findings

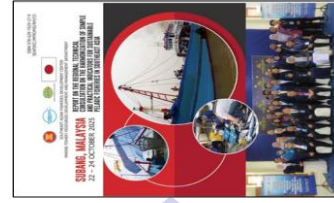
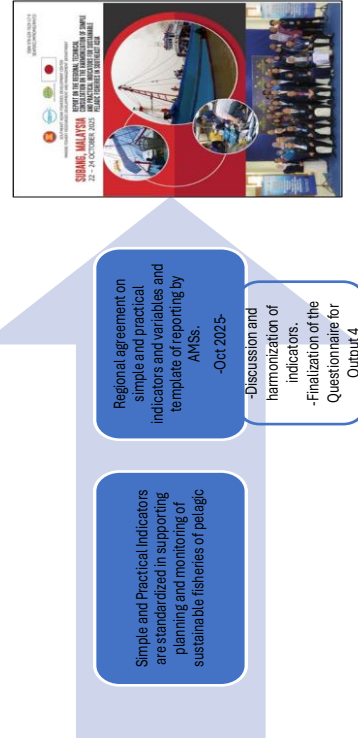
OUTPUT 2

The relevant existing fisheries information systems and mechanism are compiled and enhanced



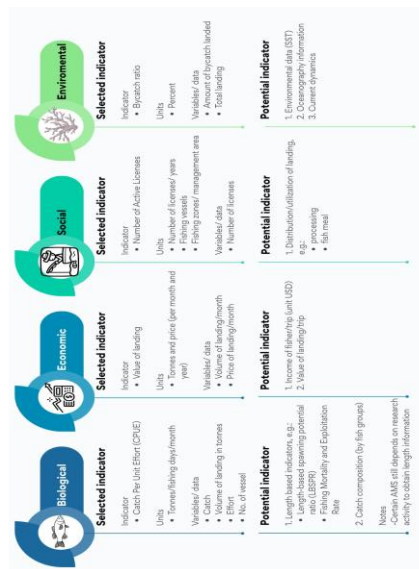
OUTPUT 3

Simple and Practical Indicators are standardized in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable pelagic fisheries



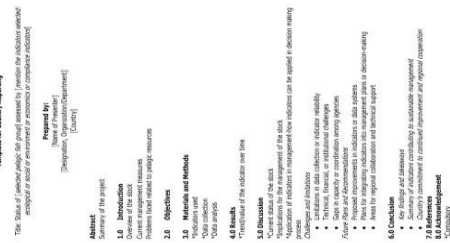
OUTPUT 3

Simple and Practical Indicators are standardized in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic



OUTPUT 3

Simple and Practical Indicators are standardized in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic

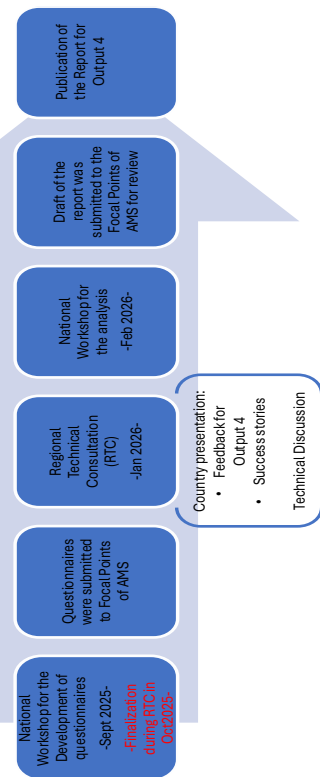


FOR TERMINAL REPORT:

- Simple and Practical Indicators selected
- Country report

OUTPUT 4

Current status and establishment of the closed season, closed areas, or other management strategies of selected pelagic species in AMSs are identified and documented



OUTPUT 4

Current status and establishment of the closed season, closed areas, or other management strategies of selected pelagic species in AMSs are identified and documented



- Current conservation efforts and management strategies implemented by AMSs
- Current regulatory and governance framework
- Issues and challenges in the management and conservation of pelagic resources
- Way-forward in the conservation efforts and management strategies of pelagic fisheries of AMSs

FOR TERMINAL REPORT:

- Key points/summary of the findings
- Success stories

Agenda 5: Evaluation of Project Performance and Achievement

Final Assessment and Lessons Learned

Che Azlan bin Taib
Universiti Utara Malaysia
Resource Person
13-08-2026
Hatten Hotel (Melaka)

Agenda 5: Evaluation of Project Performance and Achievement	
09:00 – 10:30	Evaluation of Project Performance (Evaluation based on: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Regional Impact) <i>Facilitator: Resource Persons</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:20 – 13:00	Evaluation of Project Performance and Discussion <i>Facilitator: Resource Persons</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break

Executive Summary

Project Terminal Evaluation, the evaluation items are-

- Relevance
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Impact
- Sustainability

Project Overview

Project Title:

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF
ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF FISHING CAPACITY

Brief Project Description:

- The project study the implementation and assessment of the fishing capacity for AMSs, particularly for transboundary species.
- This project aims to enhance the cooperation in the AMSs in the governance of the transboundary fishing capacity in the Southeast Asia region and move towards the development of a Fisheries Management Plan.
- This project also aim to support the ASEAN-Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Resolution and Plan of Action (RPOA) on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 and the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation under the partners for Quality of Life.

Project Overview

Project Title:

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF
ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF FISHING CAPACITY

Brief Project Description:

- The project is expected to support the implementation of SDG Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", while contributing to the principles of ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOP), particularly Openness, Good Governance, and Mutual Benefits.
- This project supports the AOP in maritime cooperation to further enhance cooperation for sustainable management of marine resources in ASEAN.

Project Overview

Project Title:

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF
ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF FISHING CAPACITY

Brief Project Description:

- Six (6) main key activities will be conducted,
 - i. Management and Assessment of Fishing Capacity,
 - ii. Compilation and Enhancement of Relevant Existing Fisheries Information System/Mechanisms,
 - iii. Standardization of Simple and Practical Indicators,
 - iv. Compilation and Assessment of Management Strategies of Selected Pelagic Species,
 - v. Compilation and Publication of Terminal Report, and
 - vi. Project Monitoring and Evaluation.

Project Overview

Project Title:

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF
ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF FISHING CAPACITY

Brief Project Description:

- The project will support the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action of ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025 under Strategic Thrust 1 and 6 namely on the activity:
 - i) 1.4.2 Enhance regional Fishery Information Systems (FIS) and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange, and compilation of statistics and information that are required at the sub-regional and regional levels; and
 - ii) 6.2.2 Assess the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.

Project Duration and Sponsorship

- > 12 months Proposed
Commencement Date: April 2024
Proposed Completion Date: March 2026
- Proposed Project Budget (total in USD): USD 555,857.52

Why this Project

Current Problem

- The expansion of Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZs) to 200 nautical miles without effective Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) and fisheries management schemes was considered as one of the primary reasons that drives the fishing industries to operate illegal fishing activities, later identified as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the EEZs of neighbouring countries.

Overall Objective (Impact)

- This project aims to enhance ASEAN cooperation and facilitate the improvement of regional fisheries information systems/mechanisms through the implementation of RPOA-Capacity in the selected pelagic species fisheries management towards resource sustainability and environmental well-being

Evaluation Methodology / Instrument

- Document review
- Stakeholder interviews
- Site observations
- Performance data analysis

Evaluation Methodology / Instrument

FINAL TERMINAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION (FTRE) EVALUATION

GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

A **Final Terminal Review and Evaluation (FTRE)** is an evaluation conducted at the end of the project. The purpose of the FTRE is to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project. It is expected to provide a comprehensive and systematic account of the evaluated project by assessing its design, implementation, and observed results as project completion. It allows project managers, donors, and other stakeholders to take stock of progress against planned outcomes and make necessary adjustments to the project's strategy, objectives, or methods.

RATING SCORE

Highly Satisfactory (5): The project had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact or sustainability.
Satisfactory (4): The project had minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact or sustainability.
Moderately (3): The project had moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact or sustainability.
Unsatisfactory (2): The project had significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact or sustainability.
Highly Unsatisfactory (1): The project had severe shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact or sustainability.
Not Applicable (0): The item is not applicable for this project

ITEMS

<https://forms.gle/aDjKMq7mbIzCGogJA>

[FINAL TERMINAL EVALUATION \(FTE\) EVALUATION GUIDELINES Google Forms](#)

RESULTS

1. 90% AND ABOVE (Excellent) = Accepted without correction
2. 80% - 89% (Very Good) = Accepted with minor correction
3. 70% - 79% (Good) = Accepted with major correction
4. 50% - 69% (Fair) = Reschedule the project implementation
5. BELOW 49% (Poor) = Reject the project

Thank You



Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

**AGENDA 7: LESSON LEARNED AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
CHALLENGES**



CHALLENGES- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Technical Challenges

- Variation in baseline national capacities (different understanding, expertise) made it difficult to standardise information inputs and requirements.
- Data Harmonisation Issues: AMS used varied formats, terminologies, and national standards, making it difficult to design a one-size-fits-all system/questionnaires.

Operational and Logistical Challenges

- Scheduling regional workshops required balancing multiple AMS calendars, leading at times to delays in activity sequencing.
- Turnover of focal points in some AMS resulted in intermittent communication gaps and required repeated orientation.

Besides appointing focal points, how can we build handover mechanisms so turnover doesn't pause momentum?

Administrative and Procurement Challenges

- The lengthy project approval process and the delay in receiving fund affects the effectiveness of project planning and implementation.
- Some administrative processes took longer than anticipated, especially those involving cross-border procurement and contracting of consultants.
- Budget reallocation efforts required careful justification and coordination among implementing partners.
- National focal points often had multiple responsibilities, limiting the time available to fully engage in project activities, subsequently causing the delay in feedback.

What specific administrative bottlenecks caused the longest delays, and what can be simplified for future project?

Capacity-Related Challenges

- Variation in National Technical Capacities: Some AMS required additional guidance to understand and adapt project outputs, especially technical guidelines or data-intensive components.
- Variation in data sharing policies among AMSs hinder effective information gathering.

How can AMS/SEAFDEC bridge the gap between strict national data-sharing policies and the need for regional data synthesis?

Flexibility Enhances Project Responsiveness

- Multi-country projects benefit from adaptable implementation strategies.
- Flexibility in adjusting activity sequencing, extending timelines for specific components, and reallocating resources allowed the project to maintain momentum despite delays.

Project management frameworks for multi-country initiatives must build contingency buffers into timelines and budget right from the start

LESSON LEARNED

Potential for Sustainability and Regional Impact

- Project outputs hold strong potential for long-term sustainability as AMS expressed interest in continuing collaboration, updating guidelines and reporting, and exploring ways to operationalise outputs at national level.
- The establishment of regional networks contributes to ongoing knowledge exchange beyond the project period.

Capacity building for project/fund application

- ASEC to consider organising regular capacity building on project/fund application process for AMS.
- This is to reduce the duration of the project approval process as well address high turn over of officers in charge of project/fund application.

Value of Dedicated Focal Points

- Clear assignment of national focal points ensured smoother communication, better data submission, and improved coordination.
- Stability/consistency in focal point appointments contributed to continuity and institutional memory.

Strength of Regional Collaboration

- Regular consultations, technical exchanges, and peer learning significantly improved project ownership (AMSs members) and strengthened regional partnerships.
- Contributes to improvement in achieving project milestones.

CHALLENGES/LESSON LEARNED	STRATEGIC SOLUTION TO EMBED IN FUTURE PLAN
Data sharing and Harmonization Barriers: AVS have different formats, policies and restrictive sharing rules	Phase 1: Data governance Institutionalize agreed metadata standards and metadata-only frameworks before requiring full raw data sharing.
Turnover of Focal Points and Capacity Gaps: Intermittent communication and varying national baselines	Institutionalized Training Infrastructure: Shift from one-off workshops to standard regional training curricula (e.g., ASEAN Stock Assessment & Data Analytics modules)
Administrative & Fund Delays: Long approval cycles and delayed disbursements stall execution.	ASEC/(any relevant institutions) Capacity Building on Funding Applications: Formalized training with ASEC to streamline multi-country fundings proposals and budget allocations early.
Focal Point Time Constraints Officers are overloaded with multiple national duties	Formalizing Mandates Policy level encourage to endorse clear Terms of Reference (TOR) for National Working Groups to dedicate time to regional tasks.



 Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity AGENDA 8: FUTURE DIRECTION AND RECOMMENDATION 	 KEY INPUTS 48th SEAFDEC Program Committee Report Analysis of the 3-5 November 2025 meeting outcomes. Lessons from Project Challenges Identifying roadblocks and essential project takeaways. Regional Technical Consultations Integrating diverse stakeholder perspectives and expert advice. Findings from Project Outputs Data-backed results extracted from final project deliverables. FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS Defined Future Strategic Direction Establishing long-term goals based on current findings. Future Capacity Building Programs Targeted training and development initiatives for the region.
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM Programmes focus on practical skills, regional consistency, and immediate applicability, particularly for data-limited small pelagic fisheries. Taking into consideration: 1. Gaps 2. Challenges 3. Potential new strategies/ideas AMSSs to identify: • Which programmes already exist nationally • Which ones require regional support • Which 2-3 programmes should be prioritised in the next 3 years 1. STOCK ASSESSMENT 2. DATA ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT 3. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM Programmes focus on practical skills, regional consistency, and immediate applicability, particularly for data-limited small pelagic fisheries. Taking into consideration: 1. Gaps 2. Challenges 3. Potential new strategies/ideas AMSSs to identify: • Which programmes already exist nationally • Which ones require regional support • Which 2-3 programmes should be prioritised in the next 3 years 1. STOCK ASSESSMENT 2. DATA ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT 3. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

A. STOCK ASSESSMENT

No.	Programme Title	Technical Focus	Target Participants	Format	Key Outputs / Deliverables	Suggested Timeframe
2	Biological Sampling & Life-History Data Training	Standardised sampling protocols (length, maturity, age), sampling design	Field enumerators, researchers, Fisheries Officer	Training + field-based practicum	ASEAN sampling protocols; improved biological datasets	Short-term
3	National/regional Training for stock assessment	Stock assessment	Uni student, Fishers, Communities	Workshop + hands-on exercises	Trained related stakeholders (fishers, locals)	Short terms

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

B. DATA ANALYSIS & MANAGEMENT

No.	Programme Title	Technical Focus	Target Participants	Format	Key Outputs / Deliverables	Suggested Timeframe
1	ASEAN Fisheries Data Analytics & Visualization Training	Data cleaning, time-series analysis, visualization (R, QGIS), dashboard and AI	Data analysts, scientists, Fisheries Officer	Hands-on regional training	Standard analysis scripts; improved national reporting	Short-term
2	Regional Fisheries Database & Interoperability Programme	Database design, metadata standards, data governance	Fisheries IT & data officers	Technical workshops + peer learning	Agreed data standards; roadmap for regional database	Short term

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

C. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

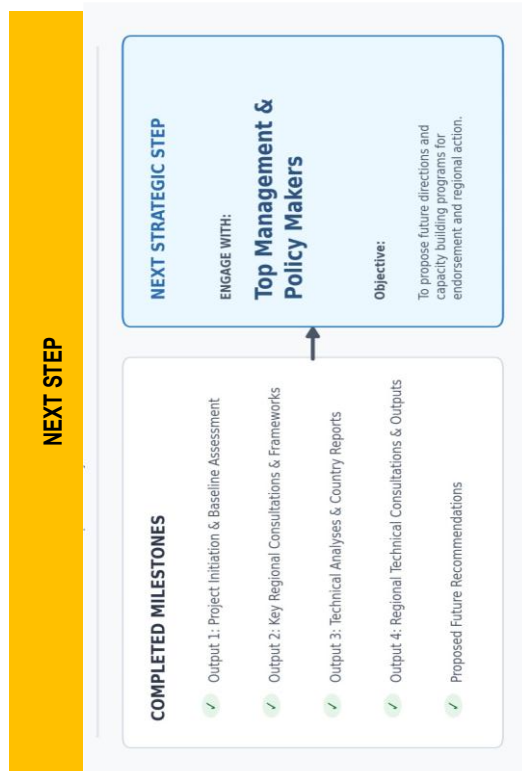
No.	Programme Title	Technical Focus	Target Participants	Format	Key Outputs / Deliverables	Suggested Timeframe
1	Science-to-Policy Transition Programme	Translating stock assessments, socioeconomic, ecological into management advice; HQRs, Regulatory Impact Assessment Indicator	Scientists & managers	Joint workshops	Policy briefs; improved uptake of science	Short term
2	Regional Training on Co management and socio-economics	Marine Spatial Planning, Co-management, Supply Chain of Fisheries Resources, Socioeconomic related fisheries management and policy (indicators)	Fisheries scientists, research officers, Fisheries Officer	Regional workshop + hands-on exercises	Trained national focal points; pilot assessments for priority species	Short-term

2. OUR DIRECTION

OUR TASK 2024-2026

1. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE RPOA -CAPACITY, FISHING CAPACITY PROFILES, FISHING EFFORT AND STOCK STATUS IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES (AMSS) AND ASSESSMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY
2. COMPILATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF RELEVANT EXISTING FISHERIES INFORMATION SYSTEMS/MECHANISMS
3. HARMONIZATION OF INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE PELAGIC FISHERIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
4. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES OF PELAGIC FISHERIES

WHATS NEXT?- STOP AT RTC?
-Future Directions?



CLOSING REMARKS

The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
12-14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia.

by Dr. Yumiko Kaneko, Programme Coordinator of JMT

Distinguished delegates, colleagues and partners,
As we conclude the project *Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)*, we reflect with pride on the significant achievements made through our collective efforts from 2024 to 2026.

This project has demonstrated the strong commitment of ASEAN Member States and our technical partners to advancing sustainable fisheries management and addressing shared regional challenges, including fishing overcapacity, overfishing, and IUU fishing. Through comprehensive assessments, regional consultations, and collaborative exchanges, we have gained a clearer understanding of the current status of fisheries capacity management across the region and identified practical pathways for further improvement.

One of the project's most important accomplishments has been the development and piloting of a standardized regional indicator framework to monitor progress in fishing capacity management. Equally important has been the strengthening of regional dialogue and knowledge-sharing through the four Regional Technical Consultations, which allowed AMSs to exchange experiences and learn from diverse management approaches and successful practices.

The findings confirm that ASEAN countries have made substantial progress in strengthening fisheries governance, enhancing monitoring and enforcement systems, improving traceability, and aligning national policies with regional and international commitments. At the same time, the assessment has highlighted areas where continued efforts are needed, particularly in data harmonization, digitalization, ecosystem-based management, adoption of advanced monitoring technologies, and strengthening institutional and technical capacities.

The recommendations generated through this project provide a valuable roadmap for future regional cooperation. Sustained commitment to information sharing, capacity building, innovation, and stakeholder engagement will be essential to ensure that our fisheries resources remain productive, resilient, and sustainable for future generations.

On behalf of the JMT, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all ASEAN Member States for their active participation and contributions, and to our partners and experts whose dedication made this project a success.

Let us build on the momentum created by this project and continue working together towards effective, transparent, and sustainable fisheries governance in Southeast Asia.
Thank you, and I wish everyone a safe journey home.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
12-14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia.

by *Ms. Mazalina Ali*, Special Departmental Coordinator of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

Mr. Ruzaidi bin Mamat, Senior Director Capture Fisheries Resources Division of Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Ms. Yumiko Kaneko, Program Coordinator, JAIF Management Team
Prof. Che Azlan Taib, Resource Person from Universiti Utara Malaysia
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumeaida Mat Piah, Resource Person from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
Dr. Abdullah Mohamad, Resource Person from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
Representatives from Brunei Darussalam
Representatives from Cambodia
Representatives from Indonesia
Representatives from Malaysia
Representatives from Myanmar
Representatives from Philippines
Representatives from Thailand
Representatives from Viet Nam
Representatives from SEAFDEC Sec and SEAFDEC/TD

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Good Afternoon.

As we reach the final stage of our **Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting**, allow me, on behalf of **SEAFDEC/MFRDMD**, to express our sincere appreciation to all distinguished participants for your active participation, thoughtful contributions and constructive engagement throughout these three days Meeting.

The discussions we have had during this Meeting have provided us with an opportunity to look at the Project from different perspectives — to reflect on its implementation, assess its achievements and outcomes, acknowledge the challenges encountered, and consider how the experiences gained can contribute to future regional cooperation.

I believe that the value of this Meeting extends beyond the conclusions recorded in our meeting documents.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One important message that has emerged from our discussions is that regional cooperation is a continuous process.

The completion of this Project does not mean that our efforts to strengthen fishing capacity management come to an end. Rather, the knowledge, experiences, networks and recommendations developed through the Project provide a useful foundation for our continued work.

The recommendations and follow-up actions identified during this Meeting will therefore be important in guiding our efforts to sustain the progress made and further support the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity.

I hope that the outcomes of this Meeting will also provide useful considerations for future regional initiatives, particularly those seeking to address common fisheries management challenges through practical cooperation, information sharing and capacity development.

Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, allow me to convey our deepest appreciation to the **Government of Japan, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)**, for its generous support and continued commitment to regional cooperation.

We are also grateful to the **First Secretary of the Mission Japan to ASEAN and the JAIF Management Team** for your valuable engagement and support throughout the Project and for being with us during this important evaluation.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the **ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC Secretariat**, as well as all participating **ASEAN Member States**, for your continued cooperation, country inputs, technical contributions and commitment throughout the implementation of the Project.

We also wish to thank the **Department of Fisheries Malaysia** for its support and cooperation in facilitating this Meeting in Melaka, and our esteemed resource persons for sharing their expertise and perspectives.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Project Team, and all colleagues involved in the implementation of the Project and organization of this Meeting. Their commitment and teamwork have been essential throughout this journey.

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we leave this Meeting, I hope that we take with us not only the recommendations and outcomes of our discussions, but also a renewed sense of partnership and shared responsibility.

Our fisheries are important to our people, our economies and our region. The challenges before us may continue to evolve, but through continued dialogue, cooperation and mutual learning, we can strengthen our collective capacity to respond to them.

The completion of this Project marks an important milestone, but the spirit of cooperation that has brought us together should continue well beyond the Project.

On behalf of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, thank you once again for your valuable participation, support and commitment. To all participants who have travelled from across the region, we sincerely hope that you have found the Meeting productive and meaningful, and that you have enjoyed the warm hospitality of Melaka and Malaysia.

We wish you all a safe journey home and continued success in your respective responsibilities. It has been our great pleasure to work with all of you, and we look forward to continuing this cooperation in the years ahead.

Thank you very much.

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Regional End-of-Project Evaluation Meeting on the Implementation and Assessment of the
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
12-14 August 2026
Melaka, Malaysia.

by *Mr. Ruzaidi Mamat*, Senior Director of Capture Fishery Resources Division from Malaysia

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh and good afternoon, everyone.

First of all, I would like to thank all distinguished participants for your active participation and valuable contributions throughout the past three days. I believe we have had very good and constructive discussions during this meeting. We also had the opportunity to review the implementation of the Project, discuss its achievements and challenges, and also share our views on how we can further strengthen the management of fishing capacity in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come to the end of this Project, I believe we have made good progress and achieved a number of important outcomes together. The Project has provided us with a better understanding of the status of fishing capacity and pelagic fisheries management among ASEAN Member States. It has also provided opportunities for countries to share their experiences and approaches, and to learn from each other on fishing capacity and pelagic fisheries management.

One of the important outcomes of the Project is the development and standardisation of practical indicators for monitoring fishing capacity management. These indicators were also piloted through national reporting exercises, providing useful experience for ASEAN Member States in strengthening regional monitoring mechanisms. The exercise has given us a better understanding of what works and where we may need to do more, particularly in terms of monitoring and sharing fisheries information among AMSs.

At the same time, our discussions have also shown that there is still more work to be done.

We also recognise that there are differences among ASEAN Member States in terms of data availability, digitalisation, monitoring systems and institutional capacity. There are also areas where we can further improve the sharing and integration of fisheries information, as well as coordination among relevant agencies.

These are not easy issues to address, but I believe that this Project has given us a good platform to better understand these differences and to identify areas where we can continue to learn from one another.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we look beyond this Project, I believe that we should continue to build on what we have achieved.

Based on the Terminal Report and Terminal Evaluation, the project has achieved its intended outcomes. However, there are still some areas that can be further improved, and we look forward to receiving the feedback and inputs from AMSs according to the timeline set by the Secretariat.

I hope that the outcomes and recommendations from this Project will support the aspiration of AMSs to develop future initiatives in this area. I also hope that we can see closer collaboration among the SEAFDEC Departments, to develop capacities, and expertise of AMSs in fisheries resource management as well as enhance knowledge and data crucial for decision making in fisheries resources use planning.

I hope that these recommendations will not remain only in the Project report. Instead, I hope that we can continue to discuss and, where possible, put them into practice through our respective national programmes and regional cooperation.

I also believe that the cooperation built through this Project should continue beyond 2026. The management of fishing capacity is a continuing process, and regional cooperation will remain important as we address the challenges facing our fisheries resources.

Before I conclude, I would like to once again express our appreciation to JAIF for its financial support, the ASEAN Secretariat for its continued support, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD for leading the implementation of the Project, and all ASEAN Member States, resource persons and the Project Team for your commitment and contributions.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat and the Project Team for their efforts in organising this meeting and ensuring that the discussions over the past three days could be carried out smoothly.

Finally, I hope that all of us will take home not only the outcomes and recommendations from this meeting, but also the experiences and knowledge shared by our colleagues from across the region.

With that, I would like to thank everyone once again for your participation and contribution. I wish all of you a safe journey home, and I look forward to our continued cooperation in the future.

Thank you.

APPENDIX

Meeting images photographed by Mr. Noredzuan Hakimi Ghani



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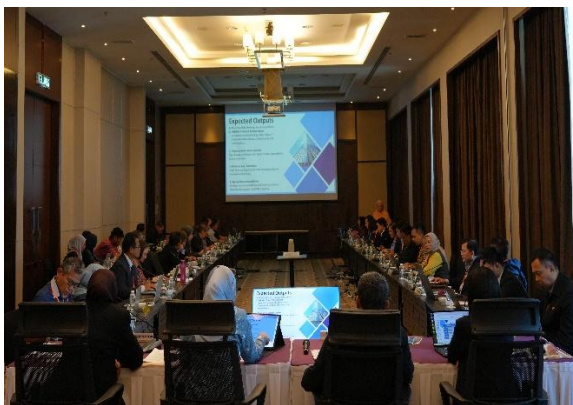
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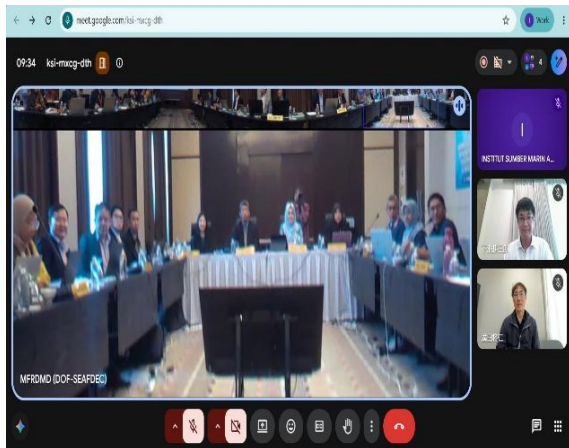


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Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

What is SEAFDEC?

SEAFDEC is an autonomous intergovernmental body established as a regional treaty organization in 1967 to promote sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia. SEAFDEC currently comprises 11 Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

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

Mission

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.

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