

**LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING ON
ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP)**

The 26th AMAF Meetings and the 37th SEAFDEC¹ Council Meeting agreed that ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation and collaboration on sustainable fisheries development should be further strengthened. As a follow up to this decision, ASEAN and SEAFDEC agreed to the establishment of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP).

The ASSP will provide the formal complementary framework for ASEAN and SEAFDEC to work together, thereby supporting ASEAN in fulfilling its Vision "To be a Leader in Sustainable Tropical Fisheries for the People" and the economic integration of the ASEAN Fisheries Sector.

The Terms of Reference, Mechanism and Scope for the ASSP, as approved by the 28th AMAF Meeting, is attached as **Appendix 1** to this Letter of Understanding.

The representatives of ASEAN and SEAFDEC, is honored and pleased to sign this Letter of Understanding to establish the ASSP in the presence of the AMAF Ministers and Minister of MAFF, Japan, during the 29th AMAF Meeting/ 7th AMAF + 3 Meeting.

Signed by:

Date: 2 November 2007
Bangkok

¹ Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center - 11 members: 10 ASEAN member countries and Japan.

**ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP)
TERMS OF REFERENCE, MECHANISM AND SCOPE**

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) will provide the framework for ASEAN and SEAFDEC to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration in fisheries to achieve their common goals on sustainable fisheries development.

I. Terms of Reference

1. SEAFDEC, through the implementation of its appropriate technical programs in collaboration with ASEAN/SEAFDEC Member Countries, would assist ASEAN to clarify and develop common/coordinated positions on international fisheries issues to be discussed at the international fora.
2. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) would screen the fisheries issues and decide whether an ASEAN common or coordinated position is needed, and whether it will require further coordination and policy consideration with other line agencies through submission to ASEAN higher level meetings, based on the level of integration needed.
3. SEAFDEC would provide technical inputs and support to ASEAN Member Countries prior and at relevant international meetings in support of ASEAN common positions so as to enable ASEAN member countries to coordinate their interventions on the target issues to safeguard ASEAN interest.
4. SEAFDEC, when appropriate and within SEAFDEC's capacity and capability, will implement mutually agreed ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs/activities as ASEAN's Executing Agency. This arrangement will provide for greater integration of ASEAN and SEAFDEC fisheries programs thereby avoid duplication and enable better utilisation of resources.
5. ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs shall be conducted based on the principles, rules, procedures and regulations of ASEAN and " the Agreement Establishing the Southeast Asian Development Center" of SEAFDEC.

6. ASEAN and SEAFDEC will endeavour to develop and undertake regional fisheries programs/activities related to the Southeast Asian Region systematically and vigorously taking into consideration regional and national priorities.

7. SEAFDEC will undertake the technical responsibilities for the promotion, implementation, monitoring and coordination for designated ASEAN fisheries programs/activities in collaboration with SEAFDEC countries. SEAFDEC will, in consultation with ASEAN Secretariat and/or ASWGFi, prepare the documents, when necessary, on ASEAN Fisheries Programs in response to ASEAN needs.

8. Before their implementation, SEAFDEC Secretariat will seek the approval of the SEAFDEC Council on ASEAN fisheries programs/projects that will be entrusted to SEAFDEC by ASEAN.

II. Mechanism

1. In the ASSP, ASEAN and SEAFDEC will continue to use the existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism to consult, deliberate and agree on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries programs/activities and policies, until such time when both parties mutually agree to replace or enhance/supplement the FCG mechanism.

2. ASEAN will invite SEAFDEC representatives to meetings of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and its subsidiary bodies, and other relevant ASEAN meetings (e.g. SOM-AMAF, AMAF, AEG-CITES, etc.). SEAFDEC will invite ASEAN Secretariat to the SEAFDEC Council of Directors Meeting, and other relevant SEAFDEC meetings.

3. The usage of the name, logo and/or official emblem of ASEAN and SEAFDEC on ASEAN-SEAFDEC publications or documents shall be by mutual agreement.

III. Scope

The areas for cooperation and collaboration under the ASSP listed below are not exhaustive and can be reviewed, revised or expanded from time to time when necessary by consensus between ASEAN and SEAFDEC.

1. ASEAN Vision for Fisheries: *'To be a leader in Sustainable Tropical Fisheries for the People'*.
2. ASEAN Roadmap for economic integration of the Fisheries Sector.
3. Increased participation and involvement of ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries in international fora to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests.
4. Common understanding and position in regional and global fisheries issues that have impact on fisheries development, fish trade, food safety, and the development/implementation of appropriate regional policies on these issues through an effective and timely mechanism.
5. Sustainable development in fisheries resources management, food safety, food security, and rural livelihood uplifting/improvement.
6. Cooperation in R&D and HRD in appropriate technology in the areas of capture fisheries, fisheries management, aquaculture and post-harvest of fish and fisheries products.