

Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand

**Report of Phase Three
(22-27 February 2008)**



International Cooperative Fisheries Organization
of the International Cooperative Alliance &
The Cooperative League of Thailand

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Preface

The International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) implemented the Training Project for Promotion of Community-Based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asia (CFRM Training Project) - 2007 (in Japanese Fiscal Year 2007) in Thailand during July 2007 - February 2008. The CFRM Training Project is one of the 'Partnership Strengthening Project among Japan and ASEAN countries', funded by the Japanese Government. The Project is designed to contribute to the sound development of the primary industry including fisheries in the region, promote cooperation and exchanges that would lead to increasing of income of primary industry producers and thereby help narrow the gap in their economic status through appropriate interventions.

The CFRM Training Project was initiated in the Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) of 2006 (April, 2006 – March, 2007) and is expected to continue for five years until JFY 2010. Under the Project, ICFO will select one country from Asia every year for implementation of the CFRM activities. During the first year of the Project, ICFO selected Philippines for implementation of the CFRM Training Project and in the second year *i.e.* JFY 2007 the Project has been implemented in Thailand.

The purpose of CFRM Training Project is to promote community-based fisheries resource management by small-scale fishers engaged in coastal fisheries and by their organizations (fisheries cooperatives), strengthen their activities and help contribute to ensuring sustainable production, creation of employment opportunities and poverty alleviation. The CFRM Training Project comprises 3 Phases, which include: Dispatching of Experts to the country selected by ICFO (Phase One), Fisheries Resource Management Study Visit in Japan (Phase Two) and finally a seminar in the selected country (Phase Three).

The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), one of the member organizations of ICFO, assisted ICFO as a local partner organization in implementation of the CFRM Training Project in Thailand. The Project was implemented as per the following schedule:

- 1) Phase One: Dispatching of Experts to Thailand during 16 -24 July 2007 (the Experts visited Bangkok and the Provinces of Samutsakorn, Samutsongkram, Prachuapkirikhan, Suratthani and Phuket).
- 2) Phase Two: Fisheries Resource Management Study Visit in Japan during 15 - 29 September, 2007 (Tokyo and Hokkaido Prefecture).
- 3) Phase Three: Seminar during 22 -27 February 2008 (Bangkok, Thailand).

The Phase One and Phase Two were successfully completed and their Reports were printed and used as reference material in the Seminar for the 'Promotion of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand, which was organized as a part of the Phase Three Programme. The Seminar was conducted at the Cooperative Training Centre of the CLT, Bangkok during 24 - 26 February 2008. Forty-seven participants representing fisheries cooperative sector and fisher associations of Thailand, officials of the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) and Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), etc and 12 Advisors and Observers participated in the Seminar. Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO represented the organization in the Seminar.

The Seminar was aimed at capacity building of fisheries cooperative leaders for promoting community-based fisheries resource management and establishing a close linkage with responsible government officials and other stakeholders for the purpose. You might call this as a beginning of a stronger fisheries co-management phase in Thailand. At the conclusion of the Seminar, the participants unanimously adopted the 'Bangkok Resolution', which embodies the long-felt needs of the fisheries sector in developing a healthier and vibrant fisheries and an equally dynamic cooperative base to meet the challenges of community-based fishery resource management in Thailand.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who cooperated in bringing together their experiences, ideas and resources for making it possible to adopt the 'Bangkok Resolution'. In particular, I would like to thank the participants in the Seminar for their active participation and constructive opinions, which immensely contributed to the success of the Seminar.

In Phase Three, the ICFO invited six speakers, three from abroad and three from Thailand. The speakers from abroad were Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), Chennai, India (also Advisor to the Project); Dr Jun-ichiro Okamoto, Professor of Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan (also Advisor to the Project) and Dr (Ms) Sandra Victoria Arcamo, Chief, Fisheries Resource Management Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Government of Philippines. The speakers from Thailand included Dr Kungwan Juntarashote, Director, Coastal Management Centre, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University; Dr Pongpat Boonchuwong, Director, Fisheries Economics Division, DoF, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Mr Pinyo Kiatpinyo, President, Federation of Shrimp Farmer Cooperatives of Thailand.

I would like to extend my cordial thanks to each of these speakers and advisors. Further, I would like to thank Mr Fuminori Miyatake, Assistant Director, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan and Mr Yuji Furukawa, Adjustment Chief, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Minister's Secretariat, MAFF, Government of Japan, for taking their precious time to attend the Phase Three Seminar. Without their whole-hearted support to the Project, it would not have been possible for ICFO to achieve this success.

Further, I would like to extend my particular thanks to Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, for his whole-hearted cooperation from the very beginning of this Project in Thailand. In fact, Dr Yadava has continued to extend his self-less and sincere cooperation to ICFO as the main advisor for the past two years of this five-year project, which started from JFY 2006.

Last but not the least, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Mongkalut Pukanut, Chairman of CLT, Mr Wit Pratuckchai, Executive Director of CLT, Mr Phanuwat Wanraway, Chief, International Relations Department, CLT and all other staff of CLT for their dedicated efforts in the preparation of not only the Phase Three activities but also all the CFRM Training Project activities during Phase One and Phase Two.

I would like to also thank Dr Somying Piumsombun, Director General, DoF and Ms Supatra Thanaseniwat, Director General, CPD for their cooperation to the CFRM Training Project implementation in Thailand. Cooperation from all these persons has enormously contributed to making the CFRM Training Project of JFY 2007 a success. I would like to reiterate my thanks to all of them.

As chairman of ICFO and as an organizer of the Seminar, I hope that the 'Bangkok Resolution' is distributed widely and used by all those concerned for furthering the intent and objectives of the Resolution. I also hope that the intent and objectives of the Resolution are included in future fisheries policies and programmes in order to help develop the fisheries and aquaculture sectors of Thailand.

服部郁弘

Ikuhiro Hattori
Chairman

International Cooperative Fisheries Organization
of the International Cooperative Alliance

29 February, 2008



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The cooperation and assistance received from the following organizations/ agencies/ individuals in successful completion of the **Seminar for the Promotion of Community-based Fisheries Resources Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand** is deeply acknowledged:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan
- Cooperative Promotion Department, Government of Thailand
- Department of Fisheries, Government of Thailand
- The Cooperative League of Thailand
- Embassy of Japan, Bangkok, Thailand
- Japan International Cooperation Agency, Bangkok, Thailand
- Dr Varunthat Dulyapark, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Federation of Shrimp Farmer's Cooperative of Thailand



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Participants at the Seminar

Report of Phase Three

Phase Three of the Training Project for 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand' was organized in Bangkok City, Thailand from 22-27 February 2008. The main activity in Phase Three was a Seminar for 'Promotion of Community-Based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand'. This Report described the proceedings and conclusions of the Seminar.

Pre-Seminar Preparations

2.0 The Project advisors and staff of the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) and the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) held initial meetings in the Board room of the CLT on 23 February 2008. It discussed Seminar arrangements, especially the conduct of group discussions and translation of the discussions at the Seminar from English to Thai language and *vice versa* for the benefit of those participants who spoke only English or Thai language. It was decided that one participant would be assigned to each group to facilitate discussions and group presentations. The facilitators identified for this work were Mr Pongpat Boonchuwong (Group A), Dr Udom Nuanhnuplong (Group B), Mr Pinyo Kiatpinyo (Group C) and Mr Pramuan Rugjai (Group D). It was also decided that Dr Kungwan Juntarashote and Mr Phanuwat Wanraway would assist in translations during the Seminar. Mr Wanraway would also serve as the Master of Ceremony. For group discussions it was agreed to organize the participants under the following four groups.

Group A: Policy and legal Support to Coastal Resources Management (CRM)

Group B: Sustainable use of Coastal Resources and their management

Group C: Institutional Arrangements and their roles in CRM

Group D: Livelihoods, Security Nets and Human Resources Development in CRM

3.0 In the Pre-Seminar meeting, it was also agreed that based on the deliberations, the Seminar would adopt a set of recommendations under the title of 'Bangkok Resolutions'.

Opening of the Seminar

4.0 The Seminar was held in the Conference Centre of the CLT. Fifty-nine persons took part. They represented the DoF of the Government of Thailand; CPD of the Government of Thailand; The CLT; academic bodies; fisheries and aquaculture cooperatives; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan; advisors to the Project from the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, India, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Government of Philippines and Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, Japan; the International Cooperatives Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). [Annexure 1](#) contains the list of participants [Annexure 2](#) sets out the programme.

5.0 The Seminar's Opening Ceremony was held on 24 February 2008, in the main Conference Hall of the Training Centre of the CLT. In his welcome address, Mr Mongkalut Pukanut said that it was a great honour for him to give the welcome address on behalf of the CLT. He expressed his sincere thanks to all the participants who spared their precious time to attend the Seminar. He also informed the Seminar participants that this was the fifth seminar organized under the close collaboration of ICFO and CLT in Thailand with full financial support from the MAFF. The previous four seminars were conducted in 1987, 1989, 2002 and 2005 respectively.



6.0 Mr Pukanut said that prior to the conduct of this Seminar; the IFCO had arranged a study visit for ten Thai participants to Japan in September 2007. The objectives of the visit were to explore the fisheries management systems in Japan and gain experiences from visiting fisheries cooperatives and associations in the Hokkaido Prefecture. The outcome from the study visit will be presented in this Seminar. In addition, the experiences of Philippines that implemented this programme in 2006 will also be presented for the benefit of the participants.

7.0 Welcoming the resource persons from Japan, Philippines, India and Thailand, Mr Pukanut said 'we are fortunate to have you amidst us to present your views and experiences on fisheries management. This Seminar would provide opportunities for discussion and exchange of experiences on coastal fisheries management at community level. We hope to use the outcome of this Seminar to formulate a resolution for sustainable development of the marine fisheries sector in Thailand'. Annexure 3 contains the text of Mr Pukanut's welcome address.

8.0 Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO, read the message of Mr Ikuhiro Hattori, Chairman of ICFO, who could not attend the Seminar because of other commitments. Mr Hattori asked Mr Sato to lead the Seminar.

9.0 Welcoming the Chairperson of CLT and other guests, advisors and participants, Mr Sato said that it was a great honour for him to speak at the opening ceremony of the Seminar. Mr Sato said that ICFO had conducted four seminars in the past to strengthen leadership of fisheries cooperatives in Thailand, with budgetary support from the MAFF, Government of Japan. The first seminar was held in Pattaya in March, 1989 and the second, third and fourth were held in Bangkok in November, 1997, January, 2002 and January, 2005 respectively.

10.0 Mr Sato said that the January, 2005 seminar dealt with sustainable fisheries and trade of fishery products. An important resolution that emerged from the seminar was that every country should refrain from fisheries subsidies that increased fishing capacity. However, the subsidies that encouraged conservation, management and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, and improved the livelihoods of fishers, were positive measures and should be encouraged. Therefore, every country should support and assist fisheries cooperatives as well as their associations, which play multiple roles. In brief, better fisheries resource management is the key to strengthening the economy and well-being of the fishing industry. One of the reasons why ICFO emphasizes community-based fisheries management (CBFM) is that unless the resources are managed in cooperation with fishers and their organizations, community-based fisheries management or CBFM can't succeed.

11.0 Mr Sato said that this Seminar was the second to be funded by the Government of Japan under the Training Project for 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asia'. The first seminar was held in Palawan, the Philippines in Japanese fiscal year 2006. He said that under this Project, ICFO selects one Asian country every year, and implements a three-phased program. The first phase consists of a preliminary study and experts visit the selected country. Under the second phase, a few leaders of fisheries co-operatives from the selected country are invited to make a study visit to Japan. In the third phase, a seminar is held in the selected country.

12.0 Discussing the global fisheries scenario, Mr Sato said that it was alarming to note that the world's fish stocks were declining continuously over the years. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, more than 75 percent of the world's major fish stocks had been either fully or over-exploited. Fisheries management in many countries was ineffective because of indiscriminate fishing operations and inadequate resource conservation measures. Lack of organized

community organizations was also an important reason. The 21st century was said to be the century of critical food, energy and environment problems. Food was the most important; agriculture and fisheries had to be promoted to meet the demand for food. But the adverse impacts of climate change were looming large and might affect global food production. Much would therefore have to be derived from the oceans to help fill the gap in agriculture production. In order to use the potential of seas for food supply, it is necessary to use the seas wisely and ensure sustainable production.

13.0 It is in this context that the present Project has been planned, said Mr Sato. This Project is designed to promote community-based fisheries resource management by small-scale fishers engaged in coastal fisheries and by their organizations (fisheries cooperatives and/ or associations), enhance their capacities, and strengthen their activities. It will contribute to ensuring sustainable production, creation of employment opportunities and poverty alleviation. Mr Sato said that ensuring a better quality of life for fishers was one of the important objectives of the ICFO and strengthening cooperatives was one of the best ways to do so.

14.0 Mr Sato hoped that the Seminar would help strengthen the cooperative spirit of small-scale fishers of Thailand so that they could enjoy a better quality of life and at the same time contribute to national food security and economic development of Thailand. The text of Mr Hattori's message is contained in [Annexure 4](#).

15.0 Mr Fuminori Miyatake, Assistant Director, International Cooperation Division, speaking on behalf of MAFF, Government of Japan, said that it was a great honour for him to be at the Seminar. He said the MAFF had a long history of collaboration with the ICFO of ICA. Since 1987, MAFF is supporting the fisheries cooperatives in Asian countries to help strengthen their capacities and develop the institutions through a trust fund. In 2005, the MAFF reviewed and discussed the results of its long cooperation with ICFO in the field of marine fisheries. This new fisheries resources management project for small-scale fishers in Asia was an outcome of this review. This Project started in the Japanese fiscal year 2006-07 and would be funded for five years by the Government of Japan.

16.0 Mr Miyatake said that over-fishing was one of the major causes of depletion of fisheries resources. On the other hand demand for fish and fish products was increasing due to concerns about animal health problems caused by BSE and the avian flu. Besides, peoples' awareness concerning their health and healthy seafood has also increased, placing larger demand on the supply of quality fish and fish products. Therefore, it was essential to maintain or restore fishery stocks to sustainable levels. The Project had a very important role in this context.

17.0 Mr Miyatake said that to implement this Project, the MAFF selects one country from Asia every year where potential for coastal CBFM is high. The Project is implemented in three Phases, and this Seminar is the concluding activity of the Project in the selected country. The key to effective fishery resource management was coordination between fishery cooperatives and administrative institutions. He further said that Thailand had potential for developing such coordination and hoped that this Seminar would produce fruitful results, and lead to further sustainable development of fisheries in Thailand. [Annexure 5](#) contains the message of Mr Miyatake.

18.0 Ms Borisudth Premrapunth, Specialist on Promotion and Development of Cooperatives, CPD said it was great honour for her to join the participants and the distinguished guests in the ICFO/ CLT Seminar for 'Promotion of Community-Based Fishery Resource Management in Thailand'. She said that fisheries cooperatives in Thailand are established by the fishers with the larger objectives of solving their problems in fishing and marketing through collective buying and selling, providing loan to members, promoting sustainable fishery as well as conserving the natural resources. In Thailand, Phitsanulok Fishery Cooperative was the first cooperative to

be set up in the freshwater sector and Klang Fishery Cooperative in the marine sector. Presently, there are 71 fishery cooperatives in the country with 12 035 members.

19.0 Ms Premrapunth said that Thai fisheries cooperatives face many issues, such as insufficient capital; poverty and low levels of education, especially in case of small-scale fishers; lack the capacity and skills of business; difficulties in accessing market information; degradation of fisheries resources; increasing cost of fishing and inputs for fish farming due to increase in fuel price and shortage of labour and conflicts among fishers. In this context she suggested that the concerned government agencies in Thailand should coordinate and provide information and knowledge to cooperative members in order to encourage awareness towards responsible fishing; increase the availability of funds, which can be accessed by the cooperatives for providing loan to its members; provide good quality inputs with reasonable price to cooperatives; create bargaining power through collective marketing; provide support to cooperative members to seek alternative sources of income to secure family economy and generate group activity in order to engage in natural resources conservation for sustainable use.

20.0 Ms Premrapunth said that CPD supported cooperative activities with transparency and the objectives were to improve the standard of living of the fisher members. In this context loans were also extended to the cooperatives. She said that as the demand of fishery products in the domestic as well as global markets was increasing, the cooperatives would have to adjust their strategies in order to improve their competitiveness and seek new markets, such as food service market, retail market, etc. However, fishery products for niche markets must be of top quality and comply with the prevailing standards. They should also be harvested or farm-raised using environmentally-friendly practices.

21.0 Ms Premrapunth hoped that that the Seminar would be useful in increasing the understanding of the participants on fishery resources management and the lessons learnt here could be applied towards implementation of community-based fisheries management. She also hoped that the participants would use this opportunity to exchange views and experiences on fisheries management with fellow participants and experts and take home the knowledge and experiences for sharing with the community members. The text of Ms Premrapunth's message is contained in [Annexure 6](#).

22.0 Mr Joampol Sanguansin, Senior Expert on Fisheries Ecology, Marine Fisheries Research and Management Bureau, DoF, in his message for the opening ceremony said that fisheries sector in Thailand accounts for about 1.3 percent and 11.9 percent of the national GDP and agricultural GDP respectively. The sector engages about 2 million people, of which 40 percent are fishermen and fish farmers, and 60 percent in fisheries support industries. The per capita consumption is around 32-35 kg/ person/ year. In 2006 a trade surplus of 154 billion baht was recorded.

23.0 Mr Sanguansin said that Thai marine fisheries sector was passing through a critical phase. Marine catches, both from commercial fishing and small-scale fishing, were on the decline. He said that human resource development in fisheries sector, especially at the grassroots level was necessary. It was also necessary to promote the concepts of sustainable fisheries development, enhance people's participation in natural resources and environmental management and create opportunities and an enabling environment to support the participation of all sectors in the development process. The government should facilitate and encourage public discussion at every stage of projects – such as initiation, preparation and implementation.

24.0 Mr Sanguansin said that efficient management of fishery resources and environment was also critical in view of the demands of a growing population. Local communities and small fishermen should be given legal sanction to participate in coastal

resource management, as well as in conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of mangrove forests, sea grass and coral reefs. He also emphasized on the effective implementation of the National Fishery Development Policy and said that we must strive to improve collaboration between different agencies and stakeholders, change the open access fisheries to regulated access and allocate rights to fishers.

Technical Session

25.0 The Technical Session included six presentations by invited experts, both from Thailand and from outside. These presentations also set the stage for group discussions in the later part of the Seminar. The first presentation in the Technical Session was made by Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai, India, on 'Results of Scoping Study for Promotion of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand'. The scoping study was based on discussions with various stakeholders and field visits undertaken in Thailand during Phase One of the Project.

26.0 Dr Yadava said that Thailand was a world leader in fisheries and aquaculture and the progress made by the country in the last 2-3 decades was highly impressive. Besides geographical advantages in terms of resource abundance and favourable climatic conditions, the country also possessed good human resources capable of furthering fisheries output in a sustainable manner. He said that there were various approaches to fisheries management. Whatever the approach, the stakeholders concerned needed to agree on objectives and methods, and join hands in implementation. Dr Yadava also presented a SWOT analysis on the Thai fisheries sector. The full text of Dr Yadava's paper is on [Annexure 7](#).

27.0 Professor Jun-ichiro Okamoto of the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, Japan presented a paper on 'Introduction to Fisheries Resource Management in Japan and Selected Case Study Reports'. Prof Okamoto said that present day Japanese fisheries management system was based on the provisions contained in the 1949 Fisheries Law of Japan. These provisions related to two fisheries management systems, the fisheries right and fisheries licensing, and the mechanism of democratic decision making. He also presented a detailed account of the evolution of the Japanese fisheries management system from the feudal era to the present day system.

28.0 Professor Okamoto said that in the post -World War II period, the government of Japan initiated reforms in the fisheries management system. In line with such reforms, the new Fisheries Cooperative Association Law was enacted, which provided each member with one voting right, regardless of the number of share-holdings in the cooperative association. Immediately after enactment of the Fisheries Cooperative Association Law, the new Fisheries Law was also enacted. The objectives of the new fisheries law was to democratize fisheries management system through operation of fisheries adjustment mechanism as well as to improve fisheries productivity through suitable allocation of fishing opportunities and grounds. Under the reformed fisheries right system, the fisheries rights were re-categorized and a fixed term of validity was also prescribed. To meet the objectives of the Law, preparation of master plans for fisheries right and priority order for granting the right were introduced. In addition, fisheries adjustment committees were also established to operate the system in a democratic manner.

29.0 Prof Okamoto said that the Japanese coastal fisheries management system represented by the fisheries right system could be classified as a good combination of right-based fisheries management and community-based fisheries management systems. He said that local fisheries cooperative associations (FCAs) played a key role in coastal fisheries management. The FCAs originated and evolved from the

fishers association in 1885 and are now established as self-regulatory bodies for fisheries management and reconciliation of conflicts among fishers. The membership of the FCAs covers almost all fishers from coastal fisheries and the far-sea fisheries sectors. This uniqueness of FCAs enables them to be the key stakeholder in all policy implementation activities, including fisheries resource recovery programmes (RRPs). Thus, the local FCAs are regarded as appropriate legal entities to be entitled with the fisheries rights in the coastal waters abutting their areas of jurisdiction.

30.0 Prof Okamoto said that about 50 percent of fish stocks in Japanese waters faced over-exploitation. To stem the situation, RRP were introduced for many fisheries in the country. As of January 2008, 48 RRP have already been agreed and implemented all over the country, of which 17 of them are regional and 30 are local programmes. The government support for implementation of the RRP could include (i) financial aid and (ii) stock enhancement. The financial aid may cover (i) compensation for retirement or for cessation of fishing, (ii) subsidy for introduction of new gear to meet the requirements of the new regulation and (iii) subsidy for activities relating to cleaning of fishing grounds.

31.0 In implementation of the RRP, the fisheries adjustment committees as well as the FCAs played important roles and also coordinated between different stakeholders, said Prof Okamoto. In this context he cited the example of RRP in Seto Inland Sea and Miyazaki prefecture. In the Seto Inland Sea in the Western part of Japan, especially in Kansai area, the Japanese Spanish mackerel formed very popular and expensive fisheries. The drastic decrease in the landings of Japanese Spanish mackerel was seen from 1986 onwards and the fishers and prefecture authorities feared that the stocks would collapse. Subsequently, the scientific data also confirmed that the stock levels became lower than the carrying capacity since 1992. As a part of the RRP, the fishing seasons were shortened and larger mesh size was introduced. While the goal of the RRP was to reach the levels of 1991, according to recent estimates, the projected stock recovery by 2011 would only reach about 65 percent level of 1991. The catch in 2005 was 1 351 metric tonnes, which is about 50 percent of the 1992 catch (2 051 metric tonnes). Though this RRP is regarded as one of the successful conservation programmes in Japan, the recovery projection shows how difficult it can be to achieve the desired goals.

32.0 Prof Okamoto said that, notwithstanding many management initiatives taken up by the fisheries sector in Japan, including the RRP, much more needed to be done towards sustainable exploitation of the resources. The FCAs and the fisheries associations have formed the backbone of these management initiatives and the existing fisheries management system provided the right foundation for implementation of the RRP. Without their existence it would have been a much more arduous task to implement the management programmes in the country. The Japanese experience in fisheries management also highlights the importance of stakeholders and their involvement as legitimate entities, which can democratically work for fisheries and resource management.

33.0 In conclusion, Prof Okamoto said that a strong political will was an essential pre-requisite to achieve success in implementation of the management programmes. Delegation of authority/ power to the stakeholders, decision-making using democratic processes, appropriate monitoring, intervention and support by the government were other essential requisites for achieving the desired goals and social equity in the fisheries sector. [Annexure 8](#) contains the full text of Prof Okamoto's paper.

34.0 The next presentation was made by Dr Kungwan Juntarashote, Director of Coastal Development Centre of Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand on 'Applicability of Japan's Fisheries Resource Management System to Thailand'. Dr Juntarashote said that prior to the application of fisheries resources management (FRM), it was

necessary to understand the differences between the Japanese and Thai marine fisheries and the FRM systems of the two countries. While the structure of marine fisheries in the two countries was more or less same, the major differences were in the scale and principles of management. In Japan, management of the fisheries resources was based on the concept that the resources belonged to the state and use rights were allocated to fishery cooperatives under regulated access. The fisheries cooperatives play multiple roles, including conservation of the resources and received appropriate budgetary support from the Government for coastal fisheries management. On the contrary, in Thailand the marine fisheries operate in an open access regime and the resources are treated as common property. The legal framework of Japan had developed over a period of two centuries; in Thailand the legal framework was of recent origin and poorly developed in comparison to Japan. The present fishery law was enacted in 1947 and there no law exists for fisheries cooperatives. The budgetary provisions for fisheries management and fishery resource recovery programme were also meagre.

35.0 Dr Juntarashote said that due to the above reasons, the coastal fisheries in Thailand were not properly managed and the resources were on decline. In order to improve fisheries management in Thailand, particularly by adopting the right-based management and limited access to fisheries, it was necessary that the legal framework for fisheries management be improved; fisheries cooperatives law should be enacted in order to empower fisheries cooperatives in fisheries management and resource recovery activities; the property right for fisheries resources should be defined and open access should be replaced with regulated access; the DoF and CPD should engage in enhancing the skills and capacities of the small-scale fishers in working as cooperatives and also undertaking right-based fishery management; the fisheries cooperatives should be strengthened to engage in fisheries management programmes and also to play a major role in resource recovery activities and lastly the Beneficiaries Pay Principle (BPP) should be introduced in fisheries management and resource recovery programmes. [Annexure 9](#) contains Dr Juntarashote's paper.

36.0 Dr Pongpat Boonchuwong, Director, Fisheries Economics Division, DoF, Government of Thailand in his presentation on 'Points to be noted from the Phase two Study Visit to Japan' provided an overview of Japan's fishery management system and highlighted the experiences gained from the study visit to Japan. Dr Boonchuwong said that Japan had engaged itself in various marine resources protection and recovery programmes, which were implemented by the national government as well as the local administrative units. The country had a strong legal framework for fisheries resources management, which included the Fisheries Law, Fisheries Cooperative Law, and Fishing Port Law. These laws provided clear provisions for fishing rights and exclusive rights. Therefore, management of fisheries resources was much easier in Japan. In addition, the Fisheries Cooperative Law facilitated development of fisheries cooperatives, which also led to strong institutional arrangements.

37.0 Dr Boonchuwong said that networking amongst fisheries cooperatives was well established, both vertically and horizontally. The National and Prefectural governments provided sufficient financial supports for fishing infrastructure under the National Fishing Port and Community Development Programmes as well as credit and insurance programmes. Under fishing rights scheme, the Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs) had full authority to protect the fisheries resources in areas under their jurisdictions. All members of the FCAs regularly participated in resource conservation activities, such as stock enhancement, fishery protection, reforestation and monitoring, control and surveillance programmes. The institutional arrangements have paved the way for technology transfer and human resource development (HRD) activities for FCAs and their members.

38.0 Dr Boonchuwong said that in Japan, fishing ports played a major role in fish quality control and marketing. Currently, there were about 3 000 fishing ports, on an average one every 10 kilometers of the coastline. The fisher household income was essentially the same as that in other industries, providing stable economic status to coastal fishers in the country. There was strong interaction and coordination between production and marketing centers. He further said that community-based fisheries resources management of Japan was a good model for fisheries development in Thailand, However, it may be kept in mind that social, economic and political situation in the two countries were different as also the level of education and economic status of the fishers. The full text of Br Boonchuwong's paper is on [Annexure 10](#).

39.0 Dr (Ms) Sandra V Arcamo, Chief, Fisheries Resource Management Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Government of Philippines in her presentation on 'Possibilities of Introducing Community-based Fisheries Resource Management in the Philippines: Lessons Learnt from the First Year Project' provided an overview of the first year of implementation of the Training Project for 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Management (CBFM) by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asia in the Philippines'. Under the Project, a select group of Filipinos went on a study visit to Tokyo and Okinawa to observe and understand CBFM system of Japan, derive ideas that may be applied to the Philippines setting.

40.0 Dr Arcamo in her presentation compared the fisheries resources; the legal frameworks, and organizational structures for fisheries resource management (FRM); issues; strategies, and effectiveness of the programmes in Japan and the Philippines. Japan's FRM is based on traditional systems of sea tenure, protection of small-scale fishers, involvement of fishers in resource management policies, homogeneity and social equity of fishers comprising the Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs), economically viable and sustainable fishing and fish farming operations, and administrative feasibility of management arrangement and measures. On the other hand, rationalizing the sustainable use of the fisheries resources and rehabilitation of degraded fish habitats in the Philippines were done through a participatory resource management scheme and capacity building for FRM both in the national and local agencies, and the stakeholders. There were opportunities for income diversification to wean away the users from the depleted resources and alleviate poverty and raise environmental awareness through information education campaign (IEC).

41.0 Dr Arcamo said that applicability of Japan's FRM in the Philippines poses a challenge due to differences in the legal framework, organizational structure, culture/customs and attitudes between the two countries. Nevertheless, existing opportunities in the Philippines for application of some Japanese community-based fisheries management (CBFM) experiences were presented that included the current Philippine legal and institutional frameworks such as the Fisheries Code of 1998, devolution of authority to local governments and the establishment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils. Likewise, better information on the status of fish stocks, greater cooperation between management authorities and research institutions and the expansion and growth of fisheries cooperatives would contribute to the improved implementation of CBFM. Nonetheless, it is very clear that fishers and the communities play a vital role in carrying out CBFM, be it in the context of Japanese or Filipino culture. At the end of the day, the degree of success of CBFM will depend on strong political will, autonomous authority for stakeholders, democratized mechanisms and appropriate monitoring, intervention and support by government authority, said Dr Arcamo. See [Annexure 11](#) for full text of Dr Arcamo's paper.

42.0 The last presentation in the technical session was made by Mr Pinyo Kiatpinyo, President, Federation of Shrimp-Farmer Cooperatives of Thailand. In his presentation on 'Strengthening Fisher Organizations to Help Promote Fisheries Resource



Members of the four discussion groups

Management', Mr Kiatpinyo emphasized on the need of strengthening fisher organizations to promote fisheries resources management in Thailand. Citing a study undertaken by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), in mid-2003 on fisher organizations in five Asian countries, he said that fisher organization should not only sustain themselves but also provide services to its members and to the society at large.



43.0 Mr Kiatpinyo said that besides maintaining viability, which was a prime concern, the organizations should also have the ability to work with the government and other sectors of the society to shape policies and research and development agenda, define its needs and work with others to meet those needs, bring professional or scientific advice into the development processes, and engage in mutually beneficial alliances or partnerships. Dr Kiatpinyo in his presentation also highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of such organizations. He said that that most organizations lacked adequate funds for carrying out activities and they leveraged support from government through collaborative activities, or received grants. While such arrangements were largely acceptable, they did raise the question of independence. The presentation further suggested that it might give organizations more credibility, if they maintained a greater degree of independence.

44.0 Dr Kiatpinyo said that holding on to members and staying financially stable were undoubtedly the foremost organizational concerns of fisher organizations. Other than being able to serve members' needs, selling their products at a profit was still their best bet for staying relevant and cohesive. Therefore, to develop the potentials of fisher organizations for sustainable development, it would be best to provide them the environment and motivation to attain a status of authoritativeness. In conclusion, the presentation also suggested some steps towards professionalizing and legitimizing a fisher organization. Dr Kiatpinyo's presentation is placed on [Annexure 12](#).

Group Discussions

45.0 At the beginning of the second day's proceedings, the participants formed four groups (see Box A for group-wise distribution of participants on page 12) to discuss various issues pertaining to sustainable use and management of coastal resources in Thailand. The topics assigned to the four groups were as follows:

Group A: Policy and Legal Support to Coastal Resources Management (CRM)

Policy support to CRM; Legal support to CRM; Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in CRM; Inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral conflicts and mechanisms for their resolution.

Group B: Sustainable Use of Coastal Resources and their Management

Sustainable fishing practices; Conservation and resource enhancement; Marketing and cold chain; Technological requirements.

Group C: Institutions and their Role in CRM

Fisheries cooperatives, including their management bodies and activities; Institutional finance; Role of other departments and institutions such as universities, national and/or international NGOs, etc in management of CRM; Coordination and linkages among institutions in CRM.

Group D: Livelihoods, Security Nets and Human Resources Development in CRM

Alternate livelihoods (e.g. Eco-tourism) and additional income generating activities; Gender in CRM; Training and extension; Social security nets for fishers (including insurance for their implements, etc.); Safety and health of fishers.

Box A

GROUP A	GROUP B
<p>Topic: Policy and Legal Support to Coastal Resources Management (CRM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Support to CRM and issues • Legal Support to CRM and issues • Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in CRM • Inter-sectoral conflicts and mechanisms for their solution 	<p>Topic: Sustainable use of Coastal Resources and their Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable fishing practices • Conservation and resource enhancement • Technological requirements
Facilitator: Pongpat Boonchuwong	Facilitator: Udom Nuanhnuplong
Chairman: Boonyuen Siritum	Chairman: Wanchai Phanataneat
Rapporteur: Boonsiri Chuelieng	Rapporteur: Sasalak Maneenil
Group Members	Group Members
1. Sanchai Tandavanitj	1. Sutha Prateep Na thalang
2. Boonsiri Chuelient	2. Jarung Srithong
3. Boonyuen Siritum	3. Charoen Chandara-issara
4. Saengtien Ajjimangkul	4. Manas Manosuthisarn
5. Sophon Chandara-issara	5. Wanchai Phanataneat
6. Ampai Luangpirom	6. Sasalak Maneenil

GROUP C	GROUP D
<p>Topic: Institutional Arrangements and their Role in CRM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries cooperatives, including their management bodies and activities • Institutional finance • Role of other Departments and other institutions such as universities, national and/or international NGOs etc in management of CRM 	<p>Topic: Livelihoods, Security Nets and Human Resources Development in CRM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative livelihoods • Gender in CRM • Training and extension • Social security nets for fishes (including insurance for their implements, etc) • Safety and health of fishers
Facilitator: Pinyo Kiatpinyo	Facilitator: Pramuan Rugjai
Chairman: Thanaset Wongsawasdi	Chairman: Mongkol Vacharangkul
Rapporteur: Surat Thawachsanon	Rapporteur: Jamriang Traiyarn
Group Members	Group Members
1. Surat Thawachsanon	1. Surasak Yomsungnoen
2. Chucheep Wongsung	2. Phaonarong Phaochinda
3. Ladda Bumrung	3. Decha Banluedet
4. Rattanakorn Bunnakan	4. Mongkol Vacharangkul
5. Wantana Yongsiri	5. Chinchai Sathirayakorn
6. Sarachai Supipatmongkol	6. Jamriang Traiyarn
7. Pradit Cherasathit	7. Somsak Paiboon
8. Sakchai Saengpet	8. Wilaiwan Pobprasert
9. Thanaset Wongsawasdi	

Box B**Group A**

1. Establish an autonomous body for coastal resources and environmental management.
2. Strengthen data base and information on marine fisheries.
3. Promote participation of coastal communities at all levels in decision making, especially on formulation of laws and implementation of rules and regulations.
4. Prepare policies with focus on wise use of coastal resources.
5. Integrate all policies related to coastal resources and environment into one comprehensive policy to be implemented by a single ministry.

Group B

1. Protect fishery resources from depletion, reduce conflict among stakeholders.
2. Apply zoning system for management of coastal resources and the environment.
3. Strengthen enforcement mechanism to eliminate problems of overfishing, use of destructive gear and illegal fishing by foreign fishers.
4. Include curriculum on coastal resources and environmental management for schools in coastal areas.
5. Promote involvement of coastal communities in resources management, resources enhancement, fish habitat improvement as well as environment monitoring with full support from the government.
6. Provide opportunities to stakeholders to express their views on development project that might have impact(s) on their well-being and livelihoods.

Group C

1. Implement right-based fisheries management system in coastal marine fisheries.
2. Strengthen fisher organization, both in number as well as activities, particularly for coastal fisheries management and stock enhancement.
3. Allocate sufficient budget for promoting fisheries cooperatives.
4. Improve marketing system of aquatic products and ensure fair trade.

Group D

1. Create more job opportunities for fishing households by providing alternatives such as fishing, tourism, preparation of value added fish products and setting up of fisheries interpretation centres, especially on traditional knowledge in fisheries.
2. Establish linkages and networking between fishing and non - fishing organizations.
3. Promote women groups and youth groups for awareness and training on coastal resources management.
4. Provide insurance cover for fishers and their implements.
5. Help fishers in reducing their debts.
6. Establish salvage centers in coastal areas.



*Participants at the Welcome Party
hosted by the Cooperative
League of Thailand.*



Participants at the National Cooperative Day Celebrations.



Participants receiving the 'Certificate of Participation' from Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO.



Advisors and speakers receiving mementoes from CLT Board Member.

46.0 The four groups assembled in different meeting rooms and each group nominated a chairperson and a rapporteur for facilitating the discussions. One expert was also assigned to each group to serve as the advisor. After intense discussion, each group finalised its report for presentation in the plenary.

Welcome Party

47.0 A welcome party was hosted by the Chairman, CLT at the Conference Centre on February 25, 2008. There was cultural entertainment - with local artists presenting lively programme of music.

National Cooperative Day

48.0 Thailand celebrates its National Cooperative Day (NCD) on 26 February and the main function of the 2008 NCD was held in the premises of the CLT. The ICFO/CLT Seminar participants, advisors and experts attended the NCD celebrations and also paid tributes to the founder of cooperative movement in Thailand.

Plenary Session

49.0 During the Plenary Session held soon after the NCD celebrations were over, all four groups presented the findings and observations. Following the group presentations, Dr Kungwan Juntarashote summarized the four presentations (see Box B on page 13). A drafting committee comprising Dr Juntarashote, Mr Wit Pratuckchai, Dr Jun-ichiro Okamoto, Mr Masaaki Sato and Dr Y S Yadava prepared the draft recommendations for presentation in the closing session of the Seminar.

Closing Session

50.0 Dr Kungwan Juntarashote presented the draft recommendations to the plenary for its adoption. On the basis of suggestions received, the recommendations were finalized and adopted as 'Bangkok Resolution'. The full text of the 'Bangkok Resolution' is presented in Chapter 2 of this Report.

51.0 Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO, on behalf of the chairman of ICFO, Mr Ikuhiro Hattori, thanked all the participants, advisors and resource persons, observers, collaborating agencies of the Thai Government, namely the DoF, CPD, the Fish Marketing Organization, the CLT and all those who had cooperated to make this Seminar a very productive and useful exercise. He expressed his whole-hearted gratitude to the CLT Chairman Mr Mongkalut Pukanut, Executive Director Mr Wit Pratuckchai, and International Relations Department Chief Mr Phanuwat Wanraway for their whole-hearted cooperation and hospitality in making the Seminar a memorable one.

52.0 Mr Sato said that globally, the fisheries sector was confronted with many problems that had to be addressed. Management of fisheries had become increasingly difficult mainly due to (i) increasing cost of fuel oil and associated increase in the prices of fishing materials, (ii) stagnation in producer prices of fish due to trade liberalization, (iii) climate change and the resulting impact on the health of the living aquatic resources and (iv) poor resource management leading to decreased fish yields. While the first three factors could be solved by joint efforts of the global community, the fourth issue could be addressed locally with the cooperation and involvement of all concerned stakeholders. He further emphasized that the fisheries resources were the key to our business. The 'Bangkok Resolution' adopted in this Seminar was very important as it had been adopted through a participatory process and should lead to proper resource management, which would ultimately contribute to the prosperity of the fishing industry of Thailand.

53.0 Lastly, on behalf of ICFO, Mr Sato extended his sincere gratitude to the MAFF, Government of Japan, for the financial support provided to ICFO for implementation of the Training Project for 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand'. He hoped that the 'Bangkok Resolution' would be translated into action by cooperation among the parties concerned and would help in achieving sustainable production, creation of employment opportunities and poverty alleviation in Thailand. Mr Sato's speech is seen on [Annexure 13](#).



Mr Wit Pratuckchai

54.0 Mr Wit Pratuckchai, Executive Director, CLT expressed his sincere thanks to the ICFO and the MAFF, Government of Japan for supporting the CLT to host the 'Seminar for the Promotion of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management by Small-scale Fishers in Thailand' at the CLT. He said that better fisheries resource management was the key to strengthen the economy of the fishing industry and this Seminar had adequately emphasized that community-based fisheries management was needed for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture resources in Thailand.

55.0 He hoped that the 'Bangkok Resolution' adopted in the Seminar would help strengthen the fisheries cooperatives in Thailand, better the quality of life of fishers and help in improving the national food security and economic development of Thailand.

56.0 In conclusion, Mr Pratuckchai thanked all the participants for sparing their valuable time to participate in this Seminar and share their experiences. He thanked the resource persons for their valuable contributions to the success of the Seminar. He also expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO for his very hard work along with the CLT staff in organizing the Seminar. He wished the participants a safe and pleasant journey to their respective homes. [Annexure 14](#) contains Mr Pratuckchai's speech.

57.0 The Seminar participants and speakers were awarded certificates in appreciation of their participation and contributions to the proceedings. The CLT also presented mementos to the advisors and speakers for their contributions to the successful organization of the Seminar.

58.0 After conclusion of the Seminar, a signing ceremony was held in the Board Room of the CLT, where Mr Mongkalut Pukanut, Chairman, CLT and Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary ICFO, formally inked the 'Bangkok Resolution'. Mr Wit Pratuckchai, Mr Phanuwat Wanraway, Dr (Ms) Sandra V Arcamo, Prof Jun-ichiro Okamoto and Dr Y S Yadava witnessed the signing of the 'Bangkok Resolution'.





Mr Monkalut Pukanut and Mr Masaaki Sato signing the 'Bangkok Resolution'.

The Bangkok Resolution

of 26 February 2008
at Bangkok City
Thailand

We, the concerned leaders of fishery cooperatives, fish farmers cooperative and associations of small-scale fishers and fish farmers in coastal villages in Thailand, together with our equally concerned officials from the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) and the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) recognize that:

Thailand is one of the top fish producing nations and the fisheries sector accounts for about 1.3 percent and 11.9 percent of the national GDP and agricultural GDP respectively. The fisheries sector engages about 2 million people, of which 40 percent are fishers and fish farmers and the balance 60 percent are engaged in ancillary industries. The sector provides around 32 - 35 kg fish per person per year and in the year 2006 generated a trade surplus of 154 billion baht.

We further recognize that the marine catch in Thai waters, both from commercial fishing and small-scale fishing is showing a decreasing trend and the livelihoods of a large number of fishers stand threatened. The sustainable development of the fishery sector is constrained by factors from both within and outside the fisheries sector.

We also recognize that efficient management of the fishery resources and environment is essential to meet the demands of a growing population and a flourishing trade in fish and fishery products.

We agree that strategies for efficient management would have to rely on a participatory and community-based approach that promotes awareness, knowledge, activity and action to solve problems. We further urge the Government, private sector, the NGOs and other community-based organizations to strengthen the approach and in this regard solemnly **adopt the following resolutions:**

A Resolution affirming to preserve the seas, rivers and their estuaries and other fishery and aquatic resources and safeguard them from pollution, over-exploitation and abuse for the food security of the present and future generations;

A Resolution committing to help the Government to enforce fishery laws, rules and regulations in the pursuit of sustainable use of resources in the coastal waters and to further assist in the effective implementation of the National Fishery Development Policy;

A Resolution urging the Government to enhance people's participation in the management of natural resources and the environment and to provide incentives to enable the fishers to actively engage in resource conservation measures and rehabilitation and maintenance of mangrove forests, sea grass and coral reefs;

A Resolution requesting the Government to converge agencies and their policies into one integrated body for sustainable development of coastal resources;

A Resolution urging the Government to implement coastal zone management plans taking into account the requirements of all user groups;

A Resolution requesting the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD), Department of Fisheries (DoF) and Department of Internal Trade to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to fishery cooperatives and associations;

A Resolution urging the Government in consultation with the stakeholders to create necessary environment for changes from an open access to regulated open access to fishery and subsequent allocation of rights to fishers;

A Resolution urging the Government in collaboration with coastal communities to undertake effective implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance in coastal marine waters;

A Resolution requesting the DoF and the CPD to coordinate with related agencies to establish and maintain comprehensive database on fisheries resources for management purposes;

A Resolution requesting the National Government in association with the local groups to upgrade the capacities of rural communities for economic and social development;

A Resolution urging agencies in the public and private sector to establish strong linkages (both vertical and horizontal) amongst cooperatives and with institutions, NGOs and community-based organizations that can provide effective forward and backward linkages;

A Resolution urging the Government to implement effectively HRD in fisheries sector, especially aimed at the stakeholders at the grassroots level;

A Resolution requesting the Government to promote formal and informal education at the school and community levels to inculcate the needs of sustainable and responsible coastal resources management;

A Resolution requesting the Government to provide incentives and encouragement for women and youth to participate in the coastal resources management at all levels;

A Resolution urging the Government to provide scope for alternative livelihoods for the fisher community, which would help in reducing the pressure on coastal fisheries resources;

A Resolution urging the Government to support establishment of markets at the local and national levels and also to protect the interests of cooperative and associations in the global market;

A Resolution urging the Government Financial Institutions and other fund sources to open windows for loans to fishery cooperatives and their fishery and livelihoods activities;

A Resolution urging the Government to create opportunities and an enabling environment to support the participation of fishers and their cooperatives in all stages of the development process *i.e.* at the initiation, preparation and implementation stages;

A Resolution urging the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other Inter-Governmental Bodies dealing with fisheries and aquaculture and donors to assist the cooperatives through the CLT and associations in strengthening their skills and capacities in community-based fisheries and coastal resources management;

A Resolution urging the Government and other concerned organizations to give priority to the fishery cooperatives in the allocation of funds and other resources for fisheries resource enhancement;

A Resolution urging the Government and Insurance Agencies to establish insurance services for fishery cooperatives to protect their assets, life and other risks and to establish fishery development fund and also set up salvage centres in the coastal areas; and

A Resolution urging the Government to adopt the 'Principle of Subsidiarity' in true letter and spirit, thus ensuring empowerment, social justice and equity.

Done by the participants, resource persons and representatives from cooperatives, associations and small-scale fisher groups, and government and related institutions in the **ICFO/ CLT Seminar for the Promotion of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management by Small-scale Fishers in Thailand** held at the CLT, Bangkok City, Thailand on 26 February 2008.

Attested by:



Mongkalut Pukanut
Chairman
Cooperative League of
Thailand



Masaaki Sato
Secretary
International Cooperative Fisheries
Organization



Annexure 1

List of Participants

Participants

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Annexure 2

Programme

Dates 24 - 26 February 2008	Venue: The Cooperative League of Thailand 13, Pichai Road, Dusit, Bangkok 10300 Thailand. Tel: + 66 2 669 3254, Fax: + 66 2 241 1013 Website: www.clt.or.th
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Date & Time	Programme
February 23 (Saturday) 13:00 -18:00	Arrival and Registration/ Dinner
February 24 (Sunday) 08:00 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 10:00	Opening Ceremony 1) Welcome address by Mr Mongkalut Pukanut , Chairman, CLT 2) Messages by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO - Mr Fuminori Miyatake Assistant Director, International Cooperation Division, Minister's Secretariat, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Government of Japan. - Mr Joompol Sanguansin Director (Marine Fisheries Resources and Management Bureau) Department of Fisheries, Government of Thailand. - Ms Borisudth Premrapunth Acting Specialist on Cooperatives Promotion and Development Cooperatives Promotion Department, Government of Thailand.
10:00 - 10:30	Group Photo/ Tea/ Coffee Break
10:30 - 17:00 10:30 - 11:00	Technical Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture No 1 Results of Scoping Study for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand. - Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai, India.
11:00 - 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture No 2 Introduction to Fisheries Resource Management in Japan and Selected Case Study Reports. - Dr Junichiro Okamoto, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, University of Hokkaido, Hakodate, Japan.
12:00 - 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture No 3 Applicability of Japan's Fisheries Resource Management System to Thailand. - Dr Kunwan Juntarashote, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand.
12:30 - 14:00	- Lunch
14:00 - 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture No. 4 Points to be noted from the Phase Two Study Visit to Japan. - Dr Pongpat Boonchuwong, Director, Fisheries Economic Division Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand.



Date & Time	Programme
14:30 - 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture No. 5 Possibilities of introducing Community-based Fisheries Resource Management in the Philippines – Lessons from the First Year Project in the Philippines. - Ms Sandra Victoria R Arcamo Chief, Fisheries Resources Management Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Manila, Philippines
15:00 - 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture No. 6 Strengthening Fisher Organizations to Help Promote Fisheries Resource Management. - Mr Pinyo Kiatpinyo, President Federation of Shrimp Farmer Cooperative of Thailand, Pratumthani, Thailand.
15:30 - 15:45	- Tea/ Coffee Break
15:45 - 17:00	- Summing up/ Directions for next day
18:00 - 21:00	- Welcome Dinner
February 25 (Monday)	
09:00 - 09:30	- Formation of Groups for Discussion
09:30 - 10:45	- Group Discussions
10:45 - 11:00	- Tea/ Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	- Group Discussions - Continued -
12:30 - 14:00	- Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	- Group Discussions - Continued -
15:30 - 15:45	- Tea/ Coffee Break
15:45 - 17:45	- Finalization of Report by the Groups and presentation on the results of Discussions
17:45 - 18:00	- Summing up by chair
February 26 (Tuesday)	
07:00 - 10:30	- Participation in the National Cooperative Day Celebration
10:30 - 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concluding Session - Preparation of Draft Recommendations by each Group - Summing up Remarks - Dr Kungwan Juntarashote - Distribution of Certificates - Closing Remarks: Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, ICFO - Closing remarks and vote of thanks - Mr Wit Pratuckchai, Executive Director, CLT
12:30 - 14:00	- Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	- Signing of the Bangkok Resolution
15:00 - 17:00	- Visit to Federation of Shrimp-Farmer Cooperatives of Thailand, Bangkok by Resource Persons and Facilitators
February 27 (Wednesday)	Departure of outstation participants



Annexure 3

Welcome Address

Mongkalut Pukanut

Chairman, The Cooperative League of Thailand

The Secretary of the International Cooperative Organization (ICFO), Mr Masaaki Sato; the Deputy Director for International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Mr Fuminori Miyatake; Prof Jun-ichiro Okamoto of the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University; Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director of the Bay of Bengal Programme; Dr Joopool Sanguansin, Senior Expert on Fisheries Ecology, Marine Fisheries Research and Management Bureau, Department of Fisheries; Experts from the Cooperatives Promotion Department; Resource persons; Distinguished guests and participants, Good Morning.



It is a great honour for me to give this welcome address. On behalf of the Cooperatives League of Thailand (CLT), I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the participants who have spared their precious time to attend this Seminar, which is being held from 24 to 26 February 2008. I would also like to inform you that this is the fifth seminar organized under close collaboration of ICFO and CLT in Thailand with full financial support from MAFF. The previous four seminars were conducted in 1987, 1989, 2002 and 2005 respectively.

Prior to the organization of this Seminar, the ICFO arranged a study visit for ten Thai participants to Japan in September 2007. The objectives of the visit were to explore fisheries management systems in Japan and gain experiences from visiting fisheries cooperatives and associations in the Hokkaido Prefecture. In this Seminar, the outcome from the study visit will be presented with emphasis on community-based fishery management system in Japan and how to apply it in Thailand for the benefit of small-scale coastal fishers. In addition, the experiences of Philippines that implemented this program in 2006 will also be presented for the benefit of the participants.

We are fortunate to have amidst us resource persons from Japan, the Philippines, India and Thailand to present their views and experiences on fisheries management. This Seminar will provide opportunities for discussion and exchange of experiences on coastal fisheries management at community level. We also hope to use the outcome of this Seminar to formulate a resolution for sustainable development of the marine fisheries sector in Thailand.

Finally, I would like to once again welcome all of you to the 'ICFO/CLT Seminar for Promotion of Community-Based Fisheries Resources Management in Thailand'.

Thank you!



Annexure 4

Message for the Opening Ceremony

Ikuhiro HATTORI

Chairman of ICFO

Sawadee Krap (good morning)!

I am Sato, Secretary of International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO). First of all, I would like to ask for your kind understanding. The Chairman of ICFO, Mr Ikuhiro Hattori could not make it here today because of other commitments. He has asked me to represent ICFO and lead the Seminar. Therefore, kindly allow me to read out his speech.

- Ms Borisudth Premrapunth, Specialist on Promotion and Development of Cooperatives, Cooperative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand;
- Mr Joopool Sanguansin, Senior Expert on Fisheries Ecology, Marine Fisheries Resource and Management Bureau, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand;
- Mr Fuminori Miyatake, Assistant Director, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan;
- Mr Yuji Furukawa, Adjustment Chief, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan;
- Our distinguished Resource Persons:
 - Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai, India;
 - Dr Jun-ichiro Okamoto, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, Hakodate, Japan;
 - Dr Kungwan Juntarashote, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand;
 - Mr Pongpat Boonchuwong, Director, Fisheries Economics Division, Department of Fisheries, Bangkok, Thailand;
 - Ms Sandra Victoria Arcamo, Chief, Fisheries Resource Management Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Quezon City, Philippines; and
 - Mr Pinyo Kiatpinyo, Chairman of Federation of Shrimp Farmer Cooperatives of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Officials of the Cooperative League of Thailand:
 - Mr Mongkalut Pukanut, Chairman;
 - Mr Wit Pratuckchai, Executive Director;
 - Mr Phanuwat Wanraway, Chief of International Relations Department.
- Fellow-Cooperators, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen;



Mr Ikuhiro Hattori

It is a great honour for me to speak at this morning's opening ceremony. The ICFO has so far conducted four seminars to strengthen leadership of fisheries cooperatives in Thailand, with budgetary support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries, Government of Japan. The first seminar was held in Pattaya in March, 1989 and the second, third and fourth were held in Bangkok in November, 1997, January, 2002 and January, 2005 respectively.

The January, 2005 seminar dealt with sustainable fisheries and trade of fishery products. An important resolution that emerged from the seminar was that every country should refrain from fisheries subsidies that increased fishing capacity. However, the subsidies that encouraged conservation, management and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, and improved the livelihoods of fishers, were positive measures and should be encouraged. Therefore, every country should support and assist fisheries cooperatives as well as their associations, which play multiple roles. In brief, better fisheries resource management is the key to strengthening the economy and well-being of the fishing industry.

One of the reasons why ICFO emphasizes community-based fisheries management is that unless the resources are managed in cooperation with fishers and their organizations, community-based fisheries management or CBFM can't succeed.

Under the "Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asia", ICFO selects one Asian country every year, and implements a three-phased program. The first phase consists of a preliminary study and experts visit the selected country. Under the second phase, a few leaders of fisheries cooperatives from the selected country are invited to make a study visit to Japan. In the third phase, a seminar is held in the selected country. Today's Seminar is the second to be assisted by Japan under the Project. The first seminar was held in Palawan, the Philippines in Japanese fiscal year 2006.

Coming to the global fisheries scenario, it is alarming to note that the world's fish stocks have been declining continuously over the years. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), more than 75 percent of the world's major fish stocks have been either fully or over-exploited. Fisheries management in many countries is ineffective because of indiscriminate fishing operations and inadequate resource conservation measures. Lack of organized community organizations is also an important reason.

The 21st century is said to be a century of critical food, energy and environment problems. Each of these, namely food, energy and environment, is of critical importance to all of us now. Among others, food is the most important. If food is not available even for one week, people will start dying.

The world climate is changing and global warming is getting serious. A rise in sea level due to global warming can inundate low-lying areas, enhance erosion, lead to salt water intrusion and salination of coastal plains. It can destroy sensitive habitats, damage the environment and affect tourism through damage to archaeological, religious, historical and cultural sites. It will also have major impacts on the global fisheries resources.

Both agriculture and fisheries must be promoted to satisfy the demand for food. Under the changing world climate, however, agriculture production will be precarious. A great deal has to be derived from the oceans to help fill the gap in agriculture production. In order to use the potential of seas for food supply, it is necessary to use the seas wisely and ensure sustainable production.

It is in this context that the present Project has been planned. The Project is designed to promote community-based fisheries resource management by small-scale fishers engaged in coastal fisheries and by their organizations (fisheries cooperatives and/or associations), enhance their capacities and strengthen their activities. It will contribute to ensuring sustainable production, creation of employment opportunities and poverty alleviation. Because more than half of fisheries production in the world is produced by

small-scale fishers, and this sector of small-scale fisheries provides employment opportunities for most of the world's coastal villages, the Project becomes all the more significant.

Ensuring a better quality of life for fishers is one of the important objectives of the ICFO. To make this happen, strengthening of the economic power of fishers and their organizations, which is cooperatives, is essential. In this Seminar, we expect to learn to lead, teach and guide our small-scale fishers from the coastal villages. In this regard, I recall the wisdom of William Arthur Ward, the noted English philosopher, who once said:

*"The mediocre teacher tells,
The good teacher explains,
The superior teacher demonstrates,
The great teacher inspires."*

I understand that our participants in this Seminar are leaders of fisheries sector in Thailand. I hope that you will become great teachers and contribute to the development of fisheries sector in Thailand.

I hope that the Seminar will help strengthen the cooperative spirit of small-scale fishers of Thailand, so that they enjoy a better quality of life and at the same time contribute to national food security and economic development in this beautiful country - Thailand. I therefore invite your active participation in the discussions.

I pray for every success of the Seminar.

Thank you very much!





Annexure 5

Message for the Opening Ceremony

Fuminori MIYATAKE

Assistant Director

International Cooperation Division

International Affairs Department, Minister's Secretariat

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Government of Japan

*M*s Borisudth Premprapunth, Specialist on Promotion and Development of Cooperatives, Cooperative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives; Mr Joopool Sanguansin, Senior Expert on Fisheries Ecology, Marine Fishery Resource Management Bureau, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives; Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary, International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO); our distinguished Resource Persons, Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai, India; Dr Junichiro Okamoto, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, Hakodate, Japan; Dr Kungwan Juntarashote, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand; Dr Pongpat Boonchuwong, Director, Fisheries Economics Division, Department of Fisheries, Thailand; Ms Sandra Victoria Arcamo, Chief, Fisheries Resource Management Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City, Philippines; Mr Pinyo Kiatpinyo, Chairman of Federation of Shrimp-Farmer Cooperatives of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand; distinguished officials of the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), Mr Monkalut Pukanut, Chairman; Mr Wit Pratuckchai, Executive Director; Mr Phanuwat Wanraway, Chief of International Relations Department; Fellow-Cooperators; Observers; Ladies and Gentlemen; Good Morning.

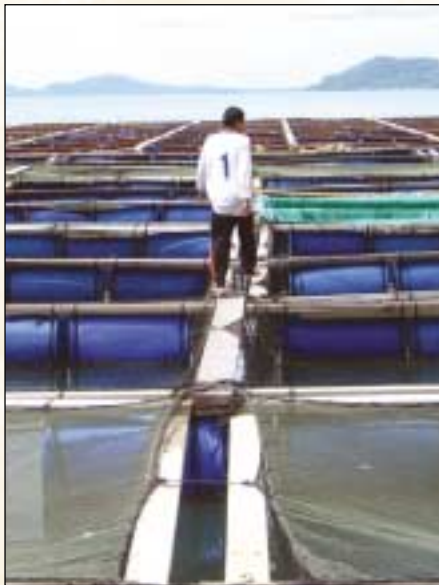
It is a great honour for me to be here on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of ICFO/CLT Seminar for 'Promotion of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand'. I would like to say a few words on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan.

The MAFF has a long history of collaboration with ICFO of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Since 1987, we have supported fisheries cooperatives in Asian countries to help strengthen their capacities and develop the institutions through the trust funds.

In 2005, our Ministry reviewed and discussed the results of its 18 years cooperation in the marine fisheries sector with ICFO, and based on the emerging needs of the sector developed a new fishery management project for small-scale fishers in Asia. This Project, which started from the last fiscal year, is a five-year project, funded by the MAFF and implemented by the ICFO.

As we are all aware, the depleting fisheries resources are becoming a serious problem and it must be pointed out that over-fishing is one of the main causes of this malaise. Simultaneously, we are also seeing the increasing demand for fish supply due to concerns about animal health problems caused by BSE and the avian flu. Besides, peoples' awareness concerning their health and healthy seafood has also increased, placing larger demand on the supply of quality fish and fish products.

In view of the above situation, it is essential to maintain and/ or restore fish stocks to the levels of maximum sustainable yield and from this standpoint this Project has a very important role to play.



In this Project, one country is selected every year from among the Asian countries, which have demonstrated high potential for introducing and implementing coastal community-based fishery resource management. The Project is implemented in three phases, which are (i) Phase One: dispatching a team of experts to the selected country in order to study the fisheries situation and to provide suggestions and advice for the subsequent two phases, (ii) Phase Two: conducting a study visit on fisheries resource management in Japan and (iii) Phase Three: organizing a seminar for leaders of fishery cooperatives and concerned administrative organizations to strengthen legal and institutional activities for fisheries resource management in the country. As you know this Seminar in Bangkok is part of the Phase Three activities and also the culmination of the Project in Thailand.

We in MAFF recognize the importance of coordination between self-help activities of fishery cooperatives as well as other organizations such as fishery associations and administrative institutions as the key element for effective implementation of sound fisheries resource management. In this respect, I would like to mention that Thailand has potential for developing such a system. Because of this fact the Government of Japan is financially supporting the activities of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) for promotion of fisheries resource management in the ASEAN region, separately from our contributions to ICA. I believe that Thailand has benefited from such contributions of ours.

Finally, on behalf of our Ministry, I would like to extend my thanks to ICFO and all those who have extended their cooperation to prepare this Seminar.

I hope this Seminar will produce fruitful results, and lead to further sustainable development of fisheries in this beautiful country, Thailand.

Thank you very much!





Annexure 6

Message for the Opening Ceremony

Borisudth Premrapunth

Specialist on Promotion and Development of Cooperatives
Cooperative Promotion Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Government of Thailand

Dear participants and distinguish guests,

It's a great honour for me to join all of you in the ICFO/CLT Seminar for 'Promotion of Community-Based Fishery Resource Management in Thailand'. The objectives of this Seminar are to promote fisheries cooperatives in Thailand and to sustain capture fishery as well as create employment and alleviate poverty.

The cooperatives in the fisheries sector in Thailand are established by the fishers with the larger objectives of solving their problems in fishing and marketing through collective buying and selling, providing loan to members, promoting sustainable fishery as well as conserving the natural resources. In Thailand, Phitsanulok Fishery Cooperative was the first cooperative to be set up in the freshwater sector and Klang Fishery Cooperative in the marine sector. Presently, there are 71 fishery cooperatives in the country with 12 035 members. These fishery cooperatives can be classified as follows:

- (i) Marine fishery cooperatives: There are 23 cooperatives with 4 111 members who are large-scale fishers (overseas fishery), medium-scale fishers (off-shore fishery) and small-scale fishers (coastal fishery within 3 000 m from shore).
- (ii) Brackish water cooperatives: There are 15 cooperatives with 2 915 members who are shrimp farmers, fish farmers and shellfish farmers.
- (iii) Freshwater cooperatives: There are 34 cooperatives with 5 547 members who are freshwater fin and shellfish farmers and other aquatic animal farmers.

The fisheries cooperatives in Thailand face many issues and I would like to mention some of the important ones, such as:

- insufficient capital;
- members who are small-scale fishers are poor and their education levels are also low;
- cooperatives lack the capacity and skills of business and their small-scale nature makes them less competitive in the market economy;
- modern techniques of fishing and fish farming do not reach the cooperatives. They also find it difficult to access market information;
- degradation of fishery resources;
- lack of network among fishers and fish farmers;
- increasing cost of fishing and inputs for fish farming due to increase in fuel price and shortage of labour;
- conflicts among fishers.

I would also like to suggest some measures, which can help develop fishery cooperative and increase their role in environment conservation in Thailand. The measures are as follows:

- integrate and coordinate all concerned government agencies to provide information and knowledge to cooperatives members in order to encourage awareness towards responsible fishing;



- increase the availability of funds, which can be accessed by the cooperatives for providing loan to its members;
- provide good quality inputs with reasonable price to cooperatives;
- create bargaining power through collective marketing;
- provide support to cooperative members to seek alternative sources of income to secure family economy; and
- generate group activity in order to engage in natural resources conservation for sustainable use.

The Cooperatives Promotion Department (CPD) has supported cooperative activities with transparency and the objectives are to improve the standard of living of the members. The CPD provides low interest loan to cooperatives and the cooperatives used this loan for improving their activities. In the year 2007, the Department provided loan to six cooperatives with a total amount of 10.3 million baht.

Presently, the demand of fishery products in the domestic as well as global markets is on the increasing trend. Therefore, the cooperatives have to adjust their strategies in order to improve their competitiveness and seek new markets, such as food service market, retail market, etc. However, fishery products for niche markets must be of top quality and comply with the prevailing standards. They should also be harvested or farm-raised using environmentally friendly practices.

I am confident that this Seminar will be useful in increasing the understanding of the participants on fishery resources management and the lessons learnt here can be applied towards implementation of community-based fishery management. I also hope that the participants will use this opportunity to exchange views and experiences on fishery management with fellow participants and the experts and finally take home the knowledge and experiences for sharing with the community members.





Annexure 7

Results of Scoping study for Propromotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand

Yugraj Singh Yadava¹

Summary

The presentation is based on the results of a scoping study carried out by a team of experts who visited Thailand during July 2007. The paper highlights the role of fisheries sector in the economy of Thailand and provides a brief overview of the various projects implemented in Thailand to promote community-based fisheries management. The paper also includes a SWOT analysis on the fisheries sector of Thailand.

In view of the open access nature of marine fisheries sector in Thailand, effective fisheries management would require close coordination between various government agencies and other stakeholders. To achieve the larger objectives of sustainable fisheries development, an integrated national policy on marine fisheries that encourages fishers to tap under-utilized fishery resources, adopt conservation measures such as artificial reefs, promotes eco-friendly and sustainable coastal aquaculture, strengthens infrastructure facilities for fish landing and marketing, improves the socio-economic conditions of fishers, generates alternative employment opportunities for fishers, promotes establishment of fisher cooperatives and modifies existing fisheries legislation may also be necessary.

1.0 Introduction

With a land area of 514 000 km², Thailand is the world's 49th largest country. The population of Thailand in December 2006 was estimated at 62 828 706. The GDP during the same year was estimated at US \$ 585.9 billion. The fisheries sector plays a significant role in the economy of Thailand. In 2006, the gross domestic production (GDP) of fisheries sector (at current market price) was estimated at 98.9 billion Baht, accounting for about 1.3 percent of the national GDP and 11.9 percent of the GDP from agriculture. About 2 million people are engaged in the fisheries sector, of which 40 percent are fishermen and fish farmers and 60 percent in other support industries such as post-harvest and marketing, ship building, etc. Fish and fish products constitute an important source of animal protein for the Thai population with an estimated per capita fish consumption of 32-35 kg during the past decade.

Thailand is richly blessed with fisheries resources. The country has a total land area of about 540 000 km², a coastline of 2 614 km and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 316 000 km². The EEZ lies partly in the Gulf of Thailand and partly in the Andaman Sea. The inland water resources amenable for fisheries is approximately 3 750 km² and over one million hectares of coastal areas have potential for aquaculture. Thailand is one of the top fish producing nations in the world. Fish production during the last three decades has shown remarkable growth. In 2004, the annual fish production reached 4.1 million tonnes, comprising 64.3 percent from marine capture fisheries (2.6 million tonnes), 18.0 percent from coastal aquaculture (1.3 million tonnes), 12.8 percent freshwater aquaculture and 4.9 percent from inland capture fisheries. Fisheries is also an important source of foreign exchange earnings for the country.

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However, in recent years, the marine catch in the Thai waters from both commercial fishing and small-scale fishing has shown a decreasing trend, which is estimated at about 5 percent per year. Resource degradation, overfishing and conflict among different groups are some of the reasons for this decline. The problem is amplified by the high cost of production, especially due to the increasing fuel price, the low prices of some fish species and shortage of labour in commercial fisheries.

On the contrary, catch from outside the Thai waters has shown an increasing trend with an annual growth rate of approximately 3 percent during the last one decade. Presently, about 3 000 fishing vessels operate in oversea waters with the bulk of catch coming from Indonesian waters. The fact that these vessels are also constrained due to the high cost of fuel, shortage of labour and increasingly difficult fishing contracts with foreign nations also puts a question mark on their sustainability in the coming years.

Concrete steps are required to stem the decline in fish production and to conserve the resources through various measures. Fisheries management practices to conserve marine resources in Thai waters need further improvement and the existing fisheries regulations need to be more strictly enforced. The fisheries management measures undertaken by the Government of Thailand so far include (i) control and entry restriction into fisheries, (ii) and adoption of a community-based fisheries management regime. As a part of the 'Scoping Study' a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) on the fisheries sector of Thailand has been attempted and the same is presented in Table 1.

2.0 Community-based Fishery Resources Management

In Thailand, as in most of the other South and South-east Asian countries, the marine fisheries sector operates in an 'open access - common property regime'. The term 'common property resource or CPR' is used variously to refer to property owned and defended by a community of resource users, to property owned by no one, and to property owned by a government. The persistent questions surrounding such property resources are (i) who shall have access to them and (ii) how the resources are to be managed in a sustainable manner.

To demonstrate management of the resources by the communities themselves, a community-based fisheries management (CBFM) was first implemented by the former Bay of Bengal Programme (later converted to the Bay of Bengal programme Inter-Governmental Organisation) in the coastal areas of Thailand, particularly in Phang-Nga Bay (Andaman Sea) and Bang Sapan Bay (Gulf of Thailand). The project aimed to change the perceptions and attitudes of fisher folk from that of a user to a manager. Activities on grouping, training, social development programmes, and fish landing-site management, which unite fisher folk, and awareness building and participation in resource conservation, were implemented in the target villages. Regular meetings among working committees of each village were organized to monitor the progress and problems of implementation in each village. The Project activities concluded in the year 2000.

In the recent years, the Coastal Habitats and Resources Management Project (CHARM), a 5-year EU co-funded Project has been implemented in Thailand with the objectives of improving the conditions of coastal habitats by promoting the process of co-management



between stakeholders (government, communities and the private sector) for coastal resources management. The Project concluded in December 2007. While these two projects have popularized the concepts of CBFM in the coastal fisheries sector in Thailand, their replication in other parts of the country is yet to be seen.

3.0 Conclusion

Attempts to develop a process that will generate more appropriate policy that will ensure better management of fisheries through 'regulated access to fisheries' will need to engage a range of institutional actors at different levels and establish sustainable mechanisms to ensure communication and interaction between them. Besides, regulated access to fisheries, management of fisheries resources will also entail issues with special emphasis on the sustainable use and conservation of the 'commons'. Such issues will mainly encompass legal and governance issues (including policy analysis): law and legal pluralism, conflict resolution, administrative and organizational problems and solutions, participation, collective action, social capital, appropriate technology, equity and efficiency.

Effective fisheries management in Thailand will require a close coordination between the different government agencies and other stakeholders concerned with the development of fisheries. While, the situation seems to be complex and difficult, as many stakeholders are involved with varied mandates and functions, it is definitely not insurmountable. What is needed an integrated national policy on marine fisheries, with the larger objectives of:

- encouraging fishers to exploit the under-utilised fishery resources to reduce fishing pressure in the inshore areas;
- augmenting aquatic resource production in the inshore areas by conservation measures (fish refugias, marine protected areas), stock enhancement, and establishing of artificial reefs along the coast;
- promoting sustainable eco-friendly coastal aquaculture;
- strengthening infrastructure facility for fish landing and marketing;
- uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the fishers through welfare measures;
- generating alternate/ additional employment opportunities for fishers;
- promoting establishment of fisheries cooperatives; and
- modifying the present fisheries legislation to suit to the present condition.



Table 1: A SWOT Analysis on Fisheries Sector in Thailand

Fisheries resources			
Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
<p>One of the top fish-producing nations in the world.</p> <p>Long coast line of > 2 000 km.</p> <p>An EEZ of 0.32 million sq. km.</p> <p>Favourable climatic conditions.</p> <p>Over one million hectares of coastal area with potential for coastal aquaculture.</p> <p>Potential of increasing fish production from international waters.</p>	<p>A large population dependant on fisheries as a source of livelihood.</p> <p>A large number of small-scale fishers and fish farmers.</p>	<p>The number of registered vessels in 2004 was 5 percent lower than the numbers registered in 2000 – indicating stabilization?</p> <p>Large coastal areas and coastal waters amenable for aquaculture/ mariculture.</p>	<p>The present level of exploitation up to 50 m depth is higher than the estimated MSY.</p> <p>Declining catch per effort unit.</p> <p>Increasing landing of trash and demersal fish.</p> <p>Marine catch in Thai waters is showing a decreasing trend.</p>
Resource management & policy			
Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
<p>Constitutional right and freedom of Thai people to participate in environmental protection programmes with government agencies in line with sustainable development.</p> <p>An MCS framework.</p> <p>Annual renewal of license.</p>	<p>Open access to fisheries.</p> <p>Three different types of licenses – high paper work for fishers and agencies.</p> <p>Fishing boat licenses issued by the Harbour Department are not required for non-mechanically propelled boats of less than 6 GT. Therefore statistics concerning fishing boats are underestimates.</p> <p>Fishers are not willing to collaborate with the Department of Fisheries (DoF) in fisheries management programmes.</p> <p>Low efficiency of enforcement. The coastline is long, the patrol boats and the staffs are few.</p> <p>The cost of law enforcement is also very high.</p>	<p>The importance of peoples' participation in natural resource and environmental management has been increasingly recognized.</p> <p>The DoF is developing a master plan for Marine Fisheries Management (for 2008-2011), that includes community-based fisheries management.</p> <p>Only Thai nationals are allowed the right to fish in Thai waters.</p> <p>Active fisher associations.</p>	<p>Pressure from interests groups.</p> <p>Conflicts between the government's management objectives and the fishers' profit motive.</p> <p>It is doubtful whether the benefits from recovery of fisheries resources are proportional to the cost of law enforcement.</p> <p>Low participation of fisher groups and fishers cooperatives in day-to-day management of the resources.</p>

Aquaculture and inland fisheries			
Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
Freshwater aquaculture has registered an impressive average annual increase of 12 percent and 16 percent in quantity and value respectively during the past 10 years (1995-2004).	<p>Freshwater fish farmers in Thailand, in general, are small-scale and therefore lack access to institutional finance and latest technology.</p> <p>Resource deterioration due to rapid urbanization and industrialization are impacting inland fisheries.</p> <p>Lack of species diversity in coastal aquaculture. Increasing reliance on exotic shrimp species, though farmers gradually returning to the native species.</p>	Policy on aquaculture development aims at increasing production by a minimum 5 percent per year with a total production of 555 000 tonnes per year – 250 000 tonnes from freshwater, 305 000 tonnes from coastal aquaculture.	<p>Environmental impacts around aquaculture sites.</p> <p>Insufficient development of aquaculture technology.</p> <p>Lack of market and infrastructure facilities to promote quality products and reduce costs.</p> <p>Problems with technology transfer to farmers.</p>
Fish processing			
Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
An established and growing fish processing industry.	<p>Excess capacity of processing plants, unstable supply of raw material and lack of efficient control over quality of raw material.</p> <p>Traditional processing units lack development of new products and access to credit.</p> <p>Shortage of quality raw material like tuna and non-tariff trade barriers are some of the main problems obstructing further growth of international fish trade.</p>	During the past two decades, the number of fish processing plants has increased significantly, especially in terms of freezing and canning.	<p>Diseconomies of scale due to unutilized capacity.</p> <p>Inability to cater to changing market demand due to size and inaccessibility to credit.</p>
Fish marketing			
Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
<p>A large domestic market with per capita fish consumption of 30-35 kg per year.</p> <p>An established export market in USA, Europe and Japan.</p> <p>The brand name for Thai shrimp.</p>	Poor transportation increases mortalities and resultant price reduction by as much as 40-50 percent.	New fisheries policy targeted at improvement of product and support to the sector.	<p>Entry of more and more countries in export market.</p> <p>Market limited to USA, Europe and Japan for which everybody is competing.</p>

International fishing			
Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
<p>Friendly relations with neighbours.</p> <p>Less fishing pressure in neighboring countries.</p>	<p>Illegal passage – leading to capture of fishers and confiscation of vessels, lack of confidence in fishing investment, lack of basic fishing infrastructure such as ports, and insufficient dialogue among fishers, coastal states and joint ventures are major problems. Lack of sea safety measures for small-scale fishers.</p>	<p>Fishing outside the Thai waters can be a reliable source of raw material for the Thai fish processing industry.</p>	<p>Fishing contracts with neighboring countries may be unclear or invalid.</p>
Institutional Support			
Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
<p>Replacement of Water Duty Act with Fisheries Act and its subsequent revisions.</p> <p>Horizontal linkages of DoF with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and the Office of Environment Policy and Planning facilitate incorporating resource management and environmental concerns in overall planning.</p> <p>Research support from Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau and its Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center and other governmental organizations on pollution, etc.</p> <p>A dedicated governmental Fish Marketing Organization.</p>	<p>Command & Control type of management with the DoF under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives at the helm.</p> <p>Ineffective role of fisher cooperatives and fishers group in institutional arrangement.</p> <p>Lack of manpower in responsible agencies reduces efficacy.</p>	<p>Newly developed policies targeting community participation, standardization of product and clear delineation of authority.</p> <p>Pilot-scale implementation of fisheries co-management (FCM) and community-based fisheries resource management (CBFRM) on the basis of Japanese models.</p>	<p>Presence of governmental agencies in every aspect of the activity might distort market forces.</p> <p>Non-compatible legal structure to promote FCM and CBFRM.</p> <p>Unknown levels of acceptance of stakeholders of FCM and CBFRM.</p> <p>Presence of vested interests in fisheries sector.</p>



Annexure 8

Introduction to Fisheries Resource Management in Japan and Selected Case Study Reports

Jun-ichiro Okamoto¹

Summary

The present day Japanese fisheries management system is based on the provisions contained in the 1949 Fisheries Law of Japan. These provisions relate to two fisheries management systems, the fisheries right and fisheries licensing, and the mechanism of democratic decision making. The Japanese coastal fisheries management system represented by the fisheries right system could be classified as a good combination of right-based fisheries management and community-based fisheries management systems. The local fisheries cooperative associations (FCAs) play a key role in coastal fisheries management in Japan. The FCAs originated and evolved from the fishers association in 1885 and are established as self-regulatory bodies for fisheries management and reconciliation of conflicts among fishers. The membership of the FCAs covers almost all fishers from coastal fisheries and the far-sea fisheries sectors. This uniqueness of FCAs enables them to be the key stakeholder in all policy implementation activities, including fisheries resource recovery programmes (RRPs). Thus, the local FCAs are regarded as appropriate legal entities to be entitled with the fisheries rights in the coastal waters abutting their areas of jurisdiction. Under the conventional fisheries management measures, about 50 percent of fish stocks in Japanese waters face over-exploitation. To stem the situation, RRP were introduced for many fisheries in the country. In implementation of the RRP, the fisheries adjustment committees as well as the FCAs play important roles and also coordinate between different stakeholders.

1.0 Introduction

Fisheries resource deterioration is one of most serious problems in many countries as well as in the international waters. Fisheries authorities and policy makers all over the world are saddled with this issue. Though deterioration of the fisheries resource could be ascribed to both natural and man-made causes, such as climate change and degradation of habitats by coastal development and pollution, over-exploitation of the fisheries resources is also a major cause. Therefore, the fisheries sector should also own the responsibility to rectify the situation. In this regard, the kind of fisheries management system that should be adopted for fisheries management assumes significance.

It is well recognized that both rules and incentives to fishers can have significant effect on the long-term sustainability of fisheries. In this regard, the implementation of right-based fisheries has been considered as an important mechanism for effective management of the fisheries resources. From all practical angles, the Japanese coastal fisheries management could be considered as the right-based fisheries management system, which is practiced in combination with the community-based fisheries management (CBFM) system. According to Professor Kenneth Ruddle of the Kansei-gakuin University in Japan, CBFM is not a new concept in coastal fisheries management. It was widely used in the fishing villages in Asia and the Pacific area before the modern systems replaced it with their highly centralized and top-down approach. This paper, describes the Japanese coastal fisheries management system and the resource recovery programmes (RRPs) implemented in the country.

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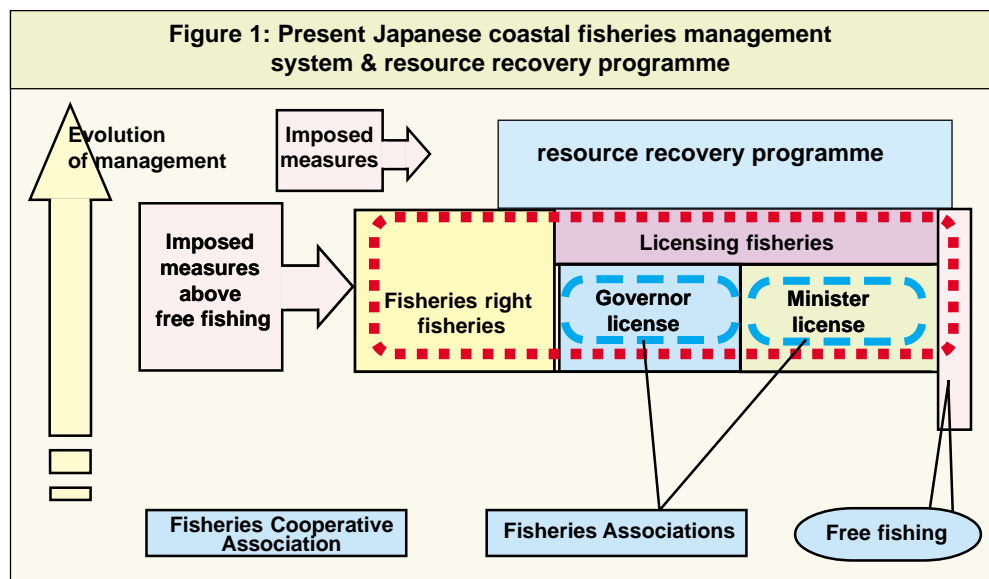
2.0 The Japanese Coastal Fisheries Management System

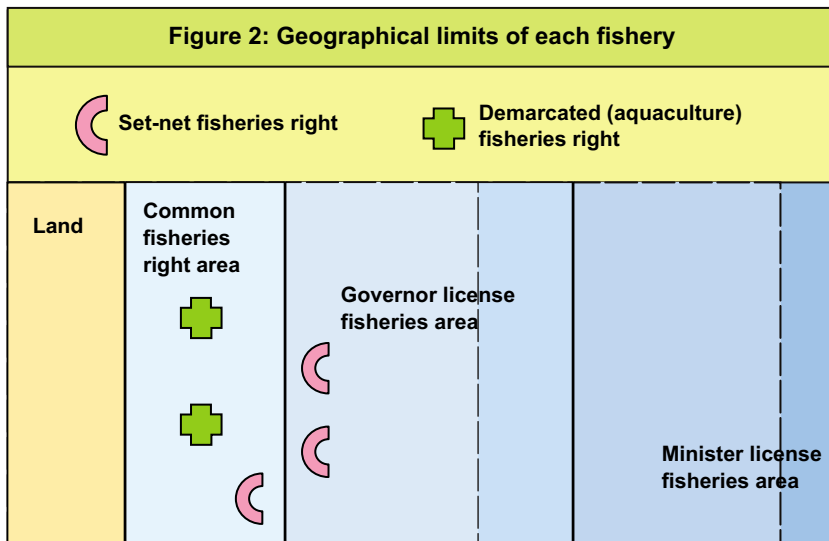
The Japanese coastal fisheries management system is well known and has been a favourite topic of scholars of fisheries management. The Japanese fisheries management system derives its strength from the 1949 Fisheries Law of Japan and comprises two distinct management norms. The first one is based on allocation of fisheries rights in the coastal waters, which is said to be unique to Japan. The second one deals with fisheries licensing system and is a common practice all over the world. In Japan, the fisheries licensing system comprises the governor licensing system and the minister licensing system.

In the Japanese legal context, fisheries resources in public waters are considered under non-ownership. In other words, nobody can claim ownership of fisheries resources in such waters and anyone can access the resources unless there is a regulation against free-fishing. Since it is well recognized that unregulated fishing causes social conflicts and depletion of fisheries resources, most public waters activities in Japan are regulated by the licensing system and fisheries right system. The only scope of free fishing in Japan is left to the pole and line fishing. It is now also well recognized that with advanced fishing technologies, the conventional fisheries management systems (such as licensing) are finding it difficult to address the issues of sustainable exploitation and resource conservation.

In Japan, the fisheries right system covers fisheries in the inshore waters and its outer limit is generally up to less than three nautical miles from the coast line. There are two types of fisheries rights. The first one is known as the common sea fisheries right and demarcated fisheries rights for aquaculture, which is granted to the fisheries cooperative associations (FCAs). The second fisheries right is the set-net fisheries right and large-scale demarcated fisheries right, which is granted to individual fishery operator or a proprietor. The governor licensing system covers relatively small-scale mobile fisheries, but the area of coverage does not have clear outer limit boundary. The minister licensing system covers relatively medium or large-scale mobile fisheries, and the regulated area by minister licensing system may extend to even foreign waters (Figures 1 & 2).

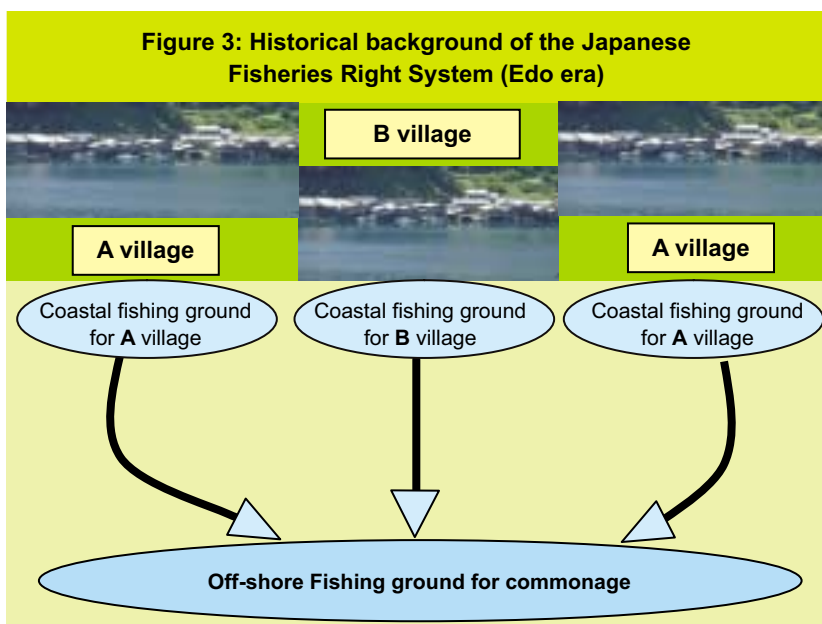
The history of Japanese fisheries right system dates prior to the shift of power from the feudal regime to the modern centralized system in 1868. During the feudal regime, the inshore fishing grounds were left to the management of adjacent villages, and offshore fishing grounds were commonage for fishers capable of paying pay tax to the





local lord (Figure 3). Although the fisheries management by the villages in the inshore fishing grounds seemed typical of CBFM, but it did not necessarily mean that the fisheries management were based on a democratic pattern.

After the shift of power from the feudal regime to the Emperor government in 1868, the new central government tried to reform fisheries management system. In 1875 it was declared that all waters belonged to the government and those willing to fish should pay rent. This declaration denied the customary rights to the villages as established during the feudal period. This policy intensified conflicts among fishers all over the country who sought new fishing opportunities under the new declaration and also tried to protect the vested fishing opportunity provided under the feudal regime. Since it became difficult for the central government to resolve conflicts arising out of the new policy, the declaration was withdrawn within one year of its issue and the old customary fisheries management rules were restored. However, the government issued a new decree in 1885 to establish fisher associations based on social and geographical



considerations in the coastal areas. This decree also stipulated that the fishers be members of the association.

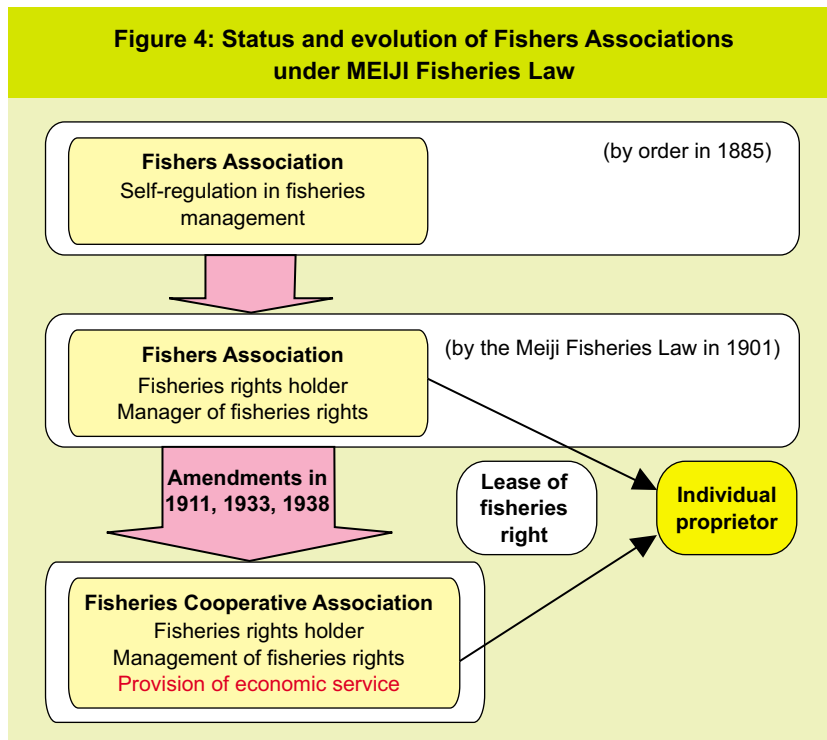
The decree also prescribed functions for the fisher associations, which stipulated that the associations will act as self-regulatory bodies, engage in fisheries management and reconciliation of possible conflicts, and collect fisheries tax for the government. While this was a practical way of solving the problems, it did not mean that the central government gave up the administrative control of fisheries management. In 1901, the central government finally introduced the new legal system for fisheries management in the form of Meiji Fisheries Law, which provided fisheries right system for use of fishing grounds. This law once again formalized the control of the government on fisheries resources.

Under the Meiji Fisheries Law, the fisheries right system was classified into four types, namely (i) set-net fisheries right for fixed gear like set-net, (ii) demarcated fisheries right for aquaculture, (iii) specific fisheries right for beach net, onshore dip-net, etc. and (iv) exclusive fisheries right for fisheries of demersal species like shellfish, sea weeds in inshore fishing grounds. While fishing of demersal species under the exclusive fisheries right was regarded as the innate right of the coastal villages, exclusive fisheries right confined within the demarcated area was granted to only fishers associations and not to the village. The fisheries right became valid by local government authorization such as grants. However, the fisheries right system under the Meiji Law had some shortcomings, which created conflicts in the society. One of the major flaws was that once the fisheries right was acquired, it could be automatically renewed and transferred. The fisheries rights were also granted on first-come first-serve basis with little thought on long-term planning.

The Meiji Fisheries Law provided legal status to the fisher associations. However, the fisher associations suffered in the initial stages due to lack of finances to run their activities. In response to requests from fisher associations, a series of amendments took place in the regulations and the fisher associations gradually evolved into fully functional fisheries cooperative associations (FCAs), providing multiple economic services such as finance, collective sale of catch and procurement of products to its members. Due to such beneficial developments, the membership of FCAs cover not only coastal fishers, but also offshore and far-seas licensing fishers who live in village near the fishing ports. The important role that these FCAs play in resource management has also made them the most appropriate entities in the fisheries sector in Japan. The status and evolution of fishers associations under the Meiji Fisheries Law is shown in Figure 4.

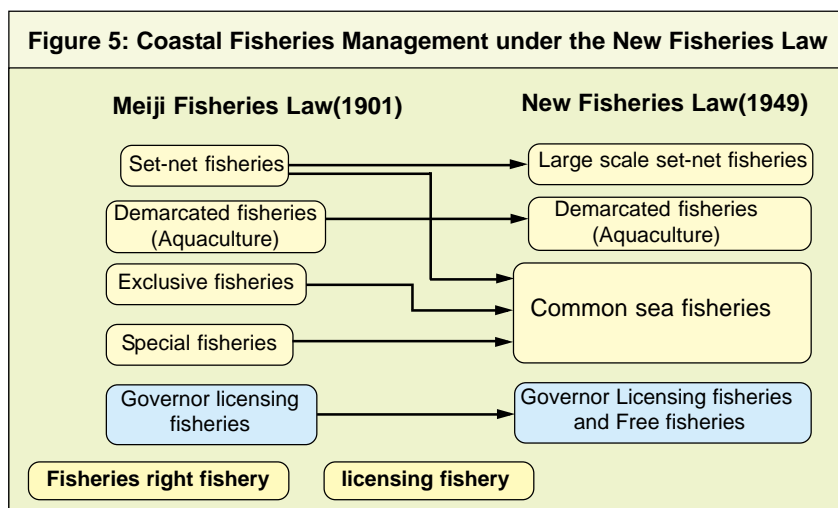
Although the Meiji Fisheries Law transformed the old customary fisheries management rules into a modern legal system, the Law had some faults. These flaws led to concentration of profitable fisheries rights, because fisheries right could be transferred as permanent private property right. Even FCAs sometimes allowed richer fishers to manage and use exclusive fisheries right by taking on lease in exchange of money.

After World War II (1945), the Japanese society entered into a democratic phase. During this period, the country also suffered acute shortage of food and there were around one million fishers without suitable fishing equipment and gear in the coastal fishing villages. This situation led to urgent actions and the government initiated reforms in the fisheries management system to address various needs, such as democratization in fisheries management and improvements in production related activities. In line with such reforms, the new Fisheries Cooperative Association Law was enacted in 1948. This Law provided each member with one voting right, regardless of the number of share-holdings in the cooperative association. Immediately after enactment of the Fisheries Cooperative Association Law, the new Fisheries Law was also enacted.



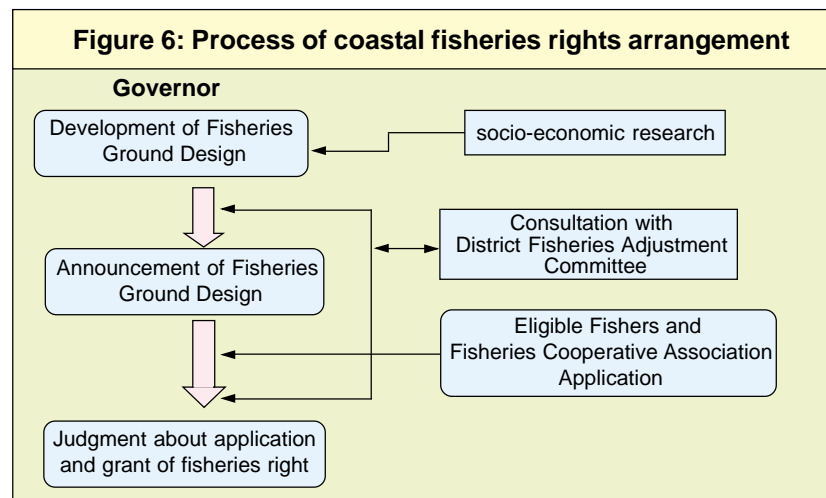
The objectives of the new fisheries law was to democratize fisheries management system through operation of fisheries adjustment mechanism as well as to improve fisheries productivity through suitable allocation of fishing opportunities and grounds. Under the reformed fisheries right system, the four types of fisheries rights were re-categorized and a fixed term of validity was also prescribed. To meet the objectives of the Law, preparation of master plans for fisheries right and priority order for granting the right were introduced. In addition, the system of fisheries adjustment committee was also established to operate the system in a democratic manner.

Through reclassification of fisheries right, the exclusive fisheries right was re-named as common fisheries right, and small-scale set-net fisheries and some net fisheries were converted into common sea fisheries right. Most part of the special fisheries right for mobile net fishing was converted into governor licensed fisheries (Figure 5).



The diving fishery to collect shell-fish, collection of seaweed and shell-fish in coastal areas, pole and line fishing around reefs, bottom fixed gill-net are small-scale in nature and can be done by individual fishers. Accordingly, these types of fisheries were legally classified as common sea fisheries and such fisheries rights were open for members of the FCA. However, the FCA is required to lay down internal rules to manage the use of fisheries right by members in order to prevent overexploitation of the resources.

The fisheries adjustment committees were established to involve fishers in the fisheries management system. One such committee was established in each prefecture and some big Prefectures like Hokkaido also have plural district committees. These committees comprise nine representatives of fishers elected from the district, four persons representing fisheries scholars and two persons representing public interest are nominated by the governor. To avoid political influence in decision-making, representatives of the Local Assembly are not permitted to be represented on these committees. The function of the district committee is very significant. The governor has to consult the committee whenever a new fisheries regulatory measure is proposed for introduction. If appropriate, the committee can also independently issue its own decree for resource conservation and coastal fisheries management. The process of coastal fisheries rights arrangement is presented in Figure 6.



In addition to the district committees, there are three regional fisheries adjustment committees. Established in 2001 the regional fisheries adjustment committees are relatively new bodies. These committees address new issues at the regional level, such as resource recovery programme (RRP) and adjustment of fisheries interests between coastal and offshore fisheries. The structure and function of regional fisheries adjustment committees are same as those of the district committee.

The process of granting fisheries right is based on scientific assessment and is transparent and open. Firstly, the prefecture government develops the fisheries ground design based on scientific information on fisheries resources and related socio-economic aspects. Such designs provide information on the type of fishery right that should be allowed, the site, period and also the category of people to whom the rights should be allotted. Once this exercise is



complete, the fisheries ground design is announced to public and based on the applications received from the fishers or FCAs, the prefecture government grants fisheries right to applicants in conformity with the required qualification and the priority order of the applicants. The governor also consults the district adjustment committee at every stage of the process before the rights are granted.

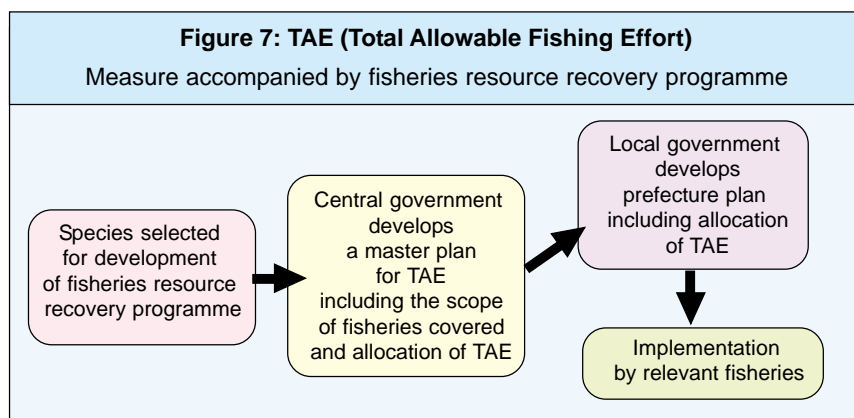
Despite various measures adopted for fisheries management, resource deterioration does occur. To correct this situation, the government has introduced various programmes to restore the resource. These include stock enhancement programmes such as farming and release of seed and fry in to the sea. The seed requirements for such activities are met from the stock enhancement centers set up by the national and prefecture governments.

Though the Japanese fisheries are managed under relatively elaborate systems, the real status of fish stocks in Japan is unfavorable to fishers and policy makers. According to the national fisheries research agency, 48 stocks (49%) out of 98 stocks in 2006 were at levels lower than average of past 20 years' indicators. In order to restore the stocks, the government started the RRP in the year 2001. After ratification of the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Japanese government also introduced the concepts of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in 1996 and the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) system for resource conservation in 2001. The species under the TAC and TAE in Japan during 2006 is shown in Table 1.

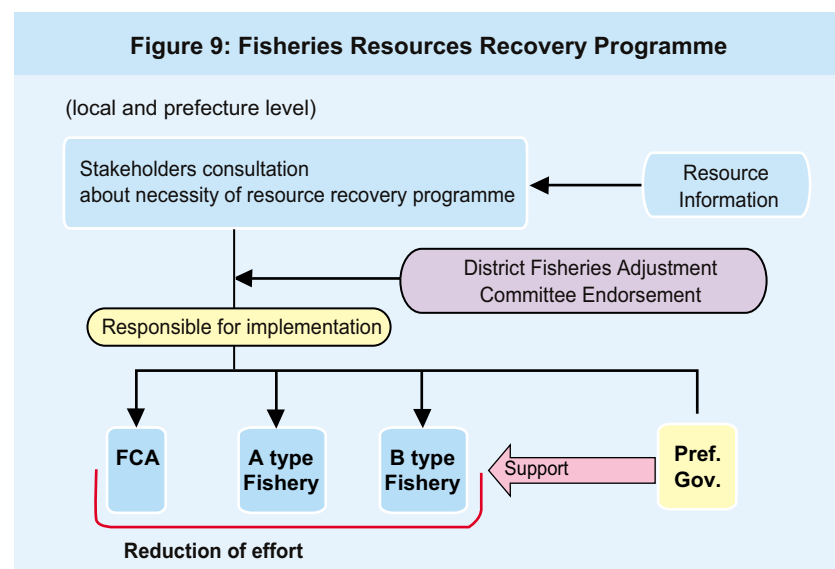
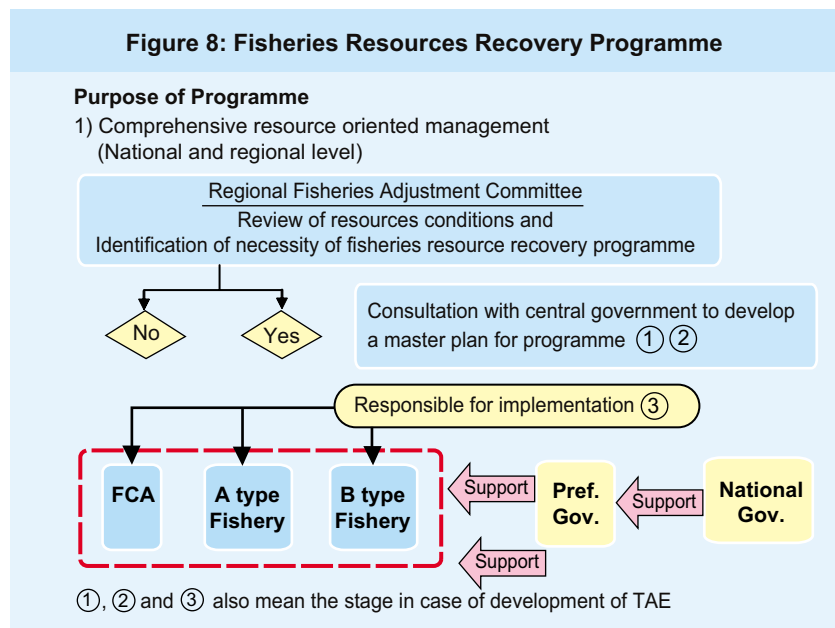
Table 1: Number of fish stocks in Japan under the TAC and TAE systems (2006)

TAC (Total Allowable Catch)	TAE (Total Allowable Effort)
7 species (Pacific saury, Alaskan pollack, Jack mackerel, Sardine, Pacific mackerel, Japanese common squid, Snow crab)	9 species (Flathead flounder, Pacific sandlance, Spear squid, Roughscale sole, Brown sole, Marble sole, Willowy flounder, Globefish, Japanese Spanish mackerel)

In case of Japan, the TAE has been considered as the total fishing vessel-days. The TAE has been introduced in conjunction with the RRP and at present nine species are listed for TAE. Once the TAE is authorized under the master plan for RRP by the central government, each portion of TAE is distributed to prefectures and relevant fisheries. If necessary, the relevant authority can also make the given TAE a legal condition through regulations for the relevant fisheries (Figure 7).



The target species for the RRP are selected after consultations by the Regional Fisheries Adjustment Committees. Such selections are based on the master plans developed by the central government for stock recovery. The master plans sometimes include many actions for each player. Generally, the RRP resort to actions such as restrictions on fishing ground, season, mesh size, body length of catch, etc for the fishers. The national and/or prefecture government, based on the agreement of fishers, also considers additional regulatory measures, financial support and stock enhancement programmes in support of the RRP. At the local level, the prefecture government sometimes takes initiative to organize stakeholder consultations and encourages discussions among stakeholders. In development of local RRP, the district fisheries adjustment committee plays the same role as that of the regional committee for the regional programme. An overview of the how the RRP are planned for implementation is given in Figures 8 & 9.



3.0 Resource Recovery Programmes

As of January 2008, 48 RRP have already been agreed and implemented all over the country, of which 17 are regional and 30 are local programmes. The government support for implementation of the RRP could include (i) financial aid and (ii) stock enhancement. The financial aid may cover (i) compensation for retirement or for cessation of fishing, (ii) subsidy for introduction of new gear to meet the requirements of the new regulation and (iii) subsidy for activities relating to cleaning of fishing grounds (Table 2).

Table 2: Government support for implementation of resource recovery programme

Support programmes	Contents of programmes
Support for reduction of fishing effort by fishers	
1. support for scrapping fishing vessels	Aid for compensation for scrapped fishing vessel
2. support for improving gear, cessation of fishing	Aid for new gear, compensation for releasing small fish, charter of vessel for activities other than fishing
2. Support for resource enhancement	Aid for seeds production and release thereof, research
3. Support for improving environment in fishing ground	Aid for cleaning fishing ground and neighboring area

In Japan there are many successful stories of fisheries RRP. The first example is a regional programme for the Japanese Spanish mackerel implemented in the Seto Inland Sea. The Japanese Spanish mackerel is very popular and expensive fish in the Western part of Japan, especially in Kansai area. The fishing grounds of this species are formed from spring to winter somewhere in the Seto Inland Sea. Therefore, stakeholders of many prefectures are involved in the fishery (Table 3 gives details of the major gear targeting Japanese Spanish mackerel). For fisheries management purposes, the Seto Inland Sea is divided into 8 areas. According to the 2003 census, the total fishery operators of gill-nets in the Seto Inland Sea Area were about 6 400. Each prefecture and fishery independently adopted its own management norms, which were inconsistent with each other.

Table 3: Major fishing gear targeting Japanese Spanish mackerel

Prefecture	Fishing gear	Total number of licenses (2001)	Area
Osaka	drift gill-net, trawl line	558	Bay of Osaka
Hyogo	drift gill-net, trawl line, purse seine	3 625	Bay of Osaka Eastern Seto Inland Sea
Okayama	drift gill-net, trawl line, trawl net	386	Eastern Seto Inland Sea
Tokushima	drift gill-net	28	Eastern Seto Inland Sea
Kagawa	drift gill-net, trawl line	1,574	Eastern Seto Inland Sea
Hiroshima	purse seine, drift gill-net	172	Central Seto Inland Sea
Ehime	drift gill-net, trawl line	486	Central Seto Inland Sea
Yamaguchi	drift gill-net	627	Western Seto Inland Sea
Ooita	drift gill-net	123	Western Seto Inland Sea
Fukuoka	drift gill-net	15	Western Seto Inland Sea
Wakayama	Trawl line	Free	Eastern Seto Inland Sea

The drastic decrease in the landings of Japanese Spanish mackerel was seen from 1986 onwards and the fishers and prefecture authorities feared that the stocks would collapse. Subsequently, the scientific data also confirmed that the stock levels became lower than the carrying capacity since 1992. With the decrease in landings, the unit price increased and since 1998 the increase in unit price of fish could no more make up for decrease of catch. Therefore, the need to restore stock was more critically recognized by fishers. Through a series of consultations, the stakeholders finally agreed for a RRP in 2002, with the goal of recovering the stocks to the 1991 levels by 2011 (Figure 10). The fishers and the Prefecture governments agreed on a unified plan to reduce the fishing efforts and the central government also decided to support implementation of the programme, if necessary. The measures adopted by each Prefecture to recovery of the Japanese Spanish mackerel is given in Tables 4 & 5.

Figure 10: Objectives of fisheries RRP for Japanese Spanish Mackerel

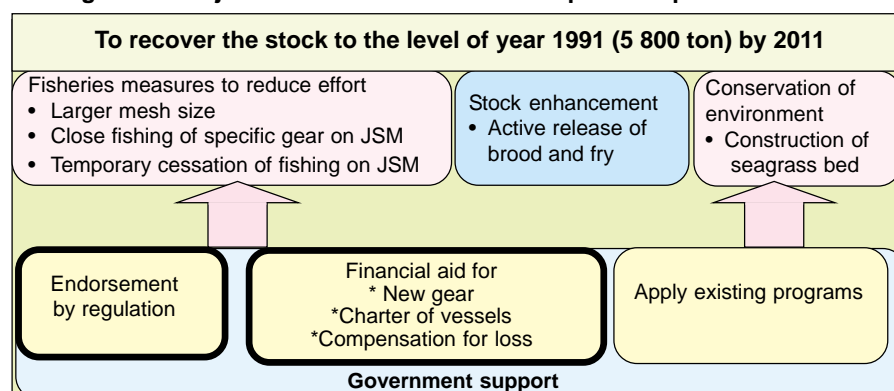


Table 4: Measures by each Prefecture before implementation of RRP

Prefecture	Regulatory measures	Voluntary measures
Osaka		Mesh size (<10cm), length of net(<3000m,<3000are)
Hyogo	Closed hour (16:00-05:00)	Mesh size (>10.9cm), size of net (<1600are)
Okayama	Size of net(<1600are,<620m)	Mesh size(>10.6cm)
Tokushima		Mesh size(>10.9cm), size of net (<2000m)
Kagawa	Size of net (<620m)	Mesh size(>12.1cm), size of net (<1085m)
Ehime	Mesh size(>10.6cm), size of net (<1000m)	
Hiroshima	Mesh size(>9cm) , size of net (<1000m)	
Yamaguchi	Mesh size (>10cm), size of net(<1800m)	
Ooita	size of net (<1500m)	
Fukuoka		

As a part of the RRP, the fishing seasons were shortened and larger mesh size was introduced. While the goal of the RRP was to reach the levels of 1991, according to recent estimates, the projected stock recovery by 2011 would only reach about 65 percent level of 1991. The catch in 2005 was 1 351 metric tonnes, which is about 50 percent of the 1992 catch (2 051 metric tonnes). Though this RRP is regarded as one of the successful conservation programmes in Japan, the recovery projection shows how difficult it can be to achieve the desired goals.

The second example is of the fisheries RRP in Miyazaki prefecture. The marble rock fish constitutes a major species in the long-line, pole & line and small trawl net fisheries.

Table 5: Introduced regulated measures to reduce fishing effort on Japanese Spanish Mackerels (JSM) stocks (CS: closed season, BMS: bigger mesh size)

Area	Fisheries	Introduced regulated measures
1	Trawl line, etc	Closed season (CS) for JSM (5/15~6/20)
2	Drift gill-net Trawl line	Closed season (6/5~7/11), bigger mesh size (>10.6cm) CS for JSM (5/25~6/30)
3	Drift gill-net Trawl line Purse seine	CS (9/1~11/30), BMS (>10.6cm) CS for JSM (9/1~11/30) Reduce catch by 20% from average of last 5 years
4	Drift gill-net Trawl line	CM (9/1~11/30), BMS (>10.6cm) CM for JSM (9/1~11/30)
5	Drift gill-net Purse seine Small type gill-net	CM (9/1~9/30), BMS (>10.6cm) Reduce catch by 20% from average of last 5 years Totally cessation
6	Drift gill-net	CS (9/1~9/30), BMS (>10.6cm)
7	Drift gill-net	CS (5/1~5/31), BMS (>10.6cm)
8	Drift gill-net	CS (5/1~5/31), BSM (>10.6cm)

About 1 800 fishing vessels are engaged in this fisheries and more than 70 percent are coastal fishers. Since 2000, the species recorded a drastic decline in the landings and the total catch value also decreased. Through a series of consultations, the stakeholders finally agreed to work on a RRP in the year 2005. They agreed on measures such as (i) introduction of refugia, (ii) close of fishing for long line for a period of six months every year, and (iii) introduction of body length limit for other fisheries. In addition, the prefecture government agreed for a stock enhancement programme. So far, the results of the RRP are not evident as the programme started only two years back.

Notwithstanding the many management initiatives taken up by the fisheries sector in Japan, including the RRP, it is seen that much more needs to be done towards sustainable exploitation of the resources. It is also noteworthy that the FCAs and the fisheries associations have formed the backbone of these management initiatives. The existing fisheries management system has also provided the right foundation for implementation of the RRP. Without their existence it would have been a much more arduous task to implement the management programmes in the country.

The Japanese experience in fisheries management also highlights the importance of stakeholders and their involvement as legitimate entities, which can democratically work for fisheries and resource management. In this regard, the regional guidelines for co-management (using group user right as supplementary guidelines) for responsible fisheries in Southeast Asia, prepared by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, could be a good source of information for consultation.

4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, it would be appropriate to say that strong political will is an essential pre-requisite to achieve success in implementation of the management programmes. Secondly, delegation of authority to the stakeholders is important as it enables them to assume ownership of the resource and its management. Thirdly, all decision-making that is based on democratic processes ensures smooth implementation of the activities. Fourthly, appropriate monitoring, intervention and support by the government are also essential in implementation of such programmes so as to achieve the desired goals and social equity. Lastly, it may also be necessary for the beneficiaries to bear to a reasonable extent the expenses towards financial and physical inputs for resource conservation, which is a common asset for society. Such an involvement would help beneficiaries realize the ownership of the resources and their sustainable use.



Annexure 9

Applicability of Japan's Fisheries Resource Management System to Thailand

Kungwan Juntarashote¹

Summary

To apply fisheries resources management (FRM) of Japan to Thailand, first we have to understand the differences between the Japanese and Thai marine fisheries and their FRM systems. While the structure of marine fisheries in the two countries is more or less same the major differences lies in the scale and principles of management. In Japan, the fisheries resources are managed on the concept that the resources belong to the state and use rights are allocated to fishery cooperatives under regulated access. The fisheries cooperatives play multiple roles, including conservation of the resources and the Japanese government provides appropriate budget to support coastal fisheries management. On the contrary, the Thai marine fisheries operate in an open access regime and the resources are treated as common property. The legal framework of Japan has been developed over a period of two centuries; in Thailand the legal framework is of recent origin and poorly developed in comparison to Japan. In Thailand the present fishery law was enacted in 1947 and there is no law for the fisheries cooperatives. The budgetary provisions for fisheries management and resource recovery programme are also insufficient.

Due to the above reasons, the coastal fisheries in Thailand are not properly managed and the resources are on decline. In order to improve fisheries management in Thailand, particularly by adopting the right-based management and limited access to fisheries, the followings are required:

- (i) The legal framework for fisheries management should be improved. Fishery cooperatives law should be enacted as soon as possible in order to empower fishery cooperatives in fisheries management and resource recovery activities.
- (ii) The property right for fisheries resources should be defined and open access should be replace with regulated open access.
- (iii) The Department of Fisheries and Cooperatives Promotion Department should engage in enhancing the skills and capacities of the small-scale fishers in working as cooperatives and also undertaking right-based fisheries management.
- (iv) The fisheries cooperatives should be strengthened to engage in fisheries management programmes and also to play a major role in resources recovery activities.
- (v) The Beneficiaries Pay Principle (BPP) should be introduced in fisheries management and resources recovery programmes.

1.0 Introduction

Japan has a long history of successful fisheries management. Over the period, fisheries cooperatives have been developed and fishers fully participate in the management and conservation of the resources. The Japanese fisheries management system has also become a role model for many countries, including Thailand. Many researchers and fisher representatives from Thailand visit Japan regularly to gain knowledge and experience on fisheries management in Japan. This paper makes an attempt to

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compare the existing fisheries management systems in Japan and Thailand and identifies the requirements for applying the Japanese model to the Thai fisheries.

2.0 Comparison of Japan and Thai Fisheries

The structure of Japanese and Thai fisheries is similar to each other in many respects, but differs in scale and principles of fisheries management. Both countries have coastal, off-shore and overseas fisheries. In aquaculture, Thailand practices mainly coastal aquaculture, whereas in Japan coastal aquaculture comprises land-based farming, mariculture, marine ranching and sea farming.

The principles of fisheries management in the two countries are quite different. Japan manages the fisheries resources on the concepts of regulated access. On the contrary, Thailand considers fisheries resources as common property and, therefore, the access to the resource is also open.

Fisheries development in Japan has a long history. The first records of fisheries development date back to the pre-feudal era (1300) followed by feudal era (1300-1800s), post-feudal era (1868-1945), Meiji era (1900s) and post-Second World War period (1948). On the other hand, Thailand has a short history of fisheries development. The first developmental process took place in the pre-Second World War period with the introduction of fishing technology from abroad. After the Second World War, Thai fisheries developed rapidly through the introduction of trawl fishing techniques from Germany. However, the trawl fisheries within a span of 10 years played major havoc on the resources.

In terms of policy and legal framework, Japan has a clear policy both for increasing production and resources restoration. Thailand again lags behind in this area as so far no clear policy on fisheries management or resource restoration exists. The legal framework of Japan also fully supports the policy on fisheries management.

In Japan several institutions/ agencies such as Research Institutes, Fisheries Agency, Fisheries Cooperatives (from local level to national level), Fisheries Associations and Local Governments support the initiatives of the Federal Government in fisheries management. The institutional support to fisheries sector in Thailand, both in terms of number and activities is weak. Presently, there are only four supporting fisheries agencies, *i.e.* Research Institute, Department of Fisheries, Local Administrative Organization and Fisheries Association/ Fisheries Cooperatives.

The Japanese Government plays an important role in the management of fisheries resources. These range from establishment of clear fisheries management and resources restoration policies, legal framework to support fisheries management, decentralization of



activities, participation of all stakeholders in fisheries management and strengthening of the activities of fisheries cooperatives in fisheries management through technical and financial support. In Thailand, while the Government plays some role in the management of the fisheries resources, such involvement is limited and the budgetary support is also low.

3.0 Problems of Thai Fishery Management

Although Thailand has been implementing fisheries development programmes for the last thirty years, concrete results from such programmes are yet to be seen. The resources are degrading year after year and conflict among fishers is more visible. Some of the important constraints in management of fisheries resources in Thailand are as follows:



- The present Fishery Law, which is based on the concepts of centralized management system, is not in tune with the present-day requirements of the sector. In addition, the law does not support the participation of local people in coastal resources and environment management.
- The fisheries cooperatives or other fisher groups play a minor role in fisheries management and resources recovery programmes.
- The objectives of fisheries management, which aim at long-term sustainability, are often in conflict with the objectives of the fishers, which mainly aim at short-term benefits. This results in lack of collaboration and support from the fishers.
- The cost of fisheries management is usually high but the budgetary support from the Government is limited. This also results in poor and ineffective monitoring, control and surveillance.

4.0 Japanese Fisheries Management Systems that can be applied to Thailand

The application of Japanese fisheries management systems to Thailand should take into account several factors such as the economic situation of the country, existing legal framework for fisheries management, policies and programmes in vogue for fisheries management, fishers' profile, and skills and capacities of fisher groups for participation in fisheries management programmes.





Based on the above consideration, it is felt that the right-based management system of Japan can be applied to Thailand. To apply the rights-based fisheries management system in Thailand, the following norms are suggested:



- The Thai Fisheries Act, 1947 is outdated and needs major amendments to meet the present-day requirements of the fisheries sector. The present Act has focus on inland fisheries. Besides bringing in new provisions to support the right-based fisheries management, co-management, etc, the amendments should also consider the contemporary global initiatives in support of sustainable fisheries development. In addition, a law would also be necessary to support the setting up of fisheries cooperatives and their effective functioning in the country.
- To manage coastal fisheries of Thailand, co-management and community-based fisheries management may be introduced on the Japanese pattern. Fisheries resources should no longer be treated as common property resources and open access should be stopped. The resources should belong to the coastal community and managed by them under right-based management system. Similarly, coastal aquaculture should also be developed on the lines of community-based fisheries management and protection of the coastal environment should be a priority.
- Fisheries cooperatives are expected to play a major role in management of coastal fisheries resources in the future. Therefore, the Government should consider promoting establishment of cooperatives and also support their activities through enhanced budgetary provisions and human resource development.
- The offshore and overseas fisheries, which are industrial in nature, should be regulated through licensing. Further, the Government should also consider a moratorium on the number and age of such fishing vessels, as practiced in Japan.
- Finally, the Beneficiaries Pay Principle (BPP) should be implemented in fishery management programmes. Any stakeholder who gains benefit from the fisheries resources should also take full responsibility of the management of the resources.





Annexure 10

Points to be noted from the Phase Two Study visit to Japan

Pongpat Boonchuwong¹

Summary

Japan has engaged itself in various marine resources protection and recovery programmes, which run from the national government down to the local administrative units. Japan has a strong legal framework for fisheries resources management, such as the Fisheries Law, Fishery Cooperative Law, and Fishing Port Law. These laws have clear provisions for fishing rights and exclusive rights. Therefore, management of fishery resources is much easier in Japan. In addition, the Fisheries Cooperative Law facilitates the development of fisheries cooperatives, which has also led to strong institution arrangements. Networking amongst fisheries cooperatives is well established, both vertically and horizontally. The National and Prefectural governments provide sufficient financial supports for fishing infrastructure under the National Fishing Port and Community Development Programmes as well as credit and insurance programmes. Under fishing rights scheme, the Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs) have full authority to protect the fishery resources in areas under their jurisdictions. All members of the FCAs regularly participate in resource conservation. They also have voluntary guidance programmes for fishery resources management, such as stock enhancement, fishery protection, reforestation and monitoring, control and surveillance programmes. The institutional arrangements have paved the way for technology transfer and human resource development (HRD) activities for FCAs and their members.

In Japan, fishing ports play a major role in fish quality control and marketing. Currently, there are about 3 000 fishing ports, on an average one every 10 kilometers of the coastline. The fisher household income is essentially the same as that in other industries, providing stable economic status to coastal fishers in the country. There is strong interaction and coordination between production and marketing centers. The community-based fisheries resources management (CBFRM) of Japan is a good model for fisheries development in Thailand. However, it may be kept in mind that social, economic and political situation in the two countries is different. The HRD is somewhat difficult in Thai fisheries due to low level of education of fishers and also their poor economic status.

1.0 Introduction

Thailand is one of the top fish producing nations in the world. During 2000-2004, the annual fish production ranged from 3.7-4.1 million metric tonnes. The geographical advantage of the country is an important factor for the high annual fish production. Thailand has a total land area of about 540 000 km² and a coastline of 2 614 km. The marine fishing grounds that fall within Thailand's Exclusive Economic Zones lie partly in the Gulf of Thailand and partly in the Andaman Sea, covering a total area of about 316 000 km². The area under inland waters is approximately 3 750 km². Besides, over one million hectares of coastal areas have high potential for aquaculture.

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2.0 Current management practices in Thailand

The Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is the principal government organization responsible for management of fisheries, marine resources and their habitats. The other government organizations such as the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and the Office of the Environment Policy and Planning under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment also play important role in conserving marine resources and their environment.

The Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau and the four Marine Fisheries Research and Development Centers established in the Gulf of Thailand and on the Andaman seacoast conduct research on marine fisheries and resource management. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and its regional research centres also conduct research on marine and coastal resource and their environment. Many other organizations such as the Department of Pollution Control, Department of National Park Conservation and Management, Department of Marine Transportation and Commerce and Universities collaborate and support the research activities of the DoF.

2.1 Fishers organizations in Thailand

There are three kinds of fishers organization, namely 1) Fisheries Associations 2) Fisheries Cooperatives, and 3) Fishers groups. The Fisheries Association of Thailand consists of 37 local fisheries associations, which are located in the coastal provinces. The fisheries associations are involved in fisheries management and improvements in the social and economic conditions of the fishers. They also promote unity among fishermen associations in Thailand, extend improved fishing technologies and provide training to the fishermen. However, the participation of fisheries cooperatives and fisher groups in fisheries management is on the lower side.

2.2 Legal Framework of Thai Fisheries

The Thai Constitution provides clear directions for administrative decentralization to empower people. To implement this, it would be necessary to bring in many new Acts. It also obliges the Government to pay sufficient attention to social welfare and environmental conservation.

The Constitution stipulates the rights and freedom of Thai people to participate in environmental protection programmes. It also ensures the right of Thai people to have free choice of occupation provided they do not cause harm to environment. Apart from ensuring the right and freedom of Thai people, the Constitution stipulates the State's fundamental policies that oblige the government to support and promote public participation in natural resources conservation and environmental protection. The Constitution also states that 'the State shall promote and maintain public



participation in conserving, maintaining and utilizing the environmental resources in a balanced and sustainable way, including controlling and eliminating pollutants, which can cause damage to the health, or social well-being of its citizens’.

In the last two decades, there has been a big change in the coastal fisheries management in Thailand. Fishery co-management (FCM) and community-based fisheries resource management (CBFRM) have been introduced and implemented on pilot-scale. Under these new activities, fishers and other stakeholders have had a chance to participate in the coastal fisheries management processes. The FCM and CBFRM activities have largely followed the Japanese principles. However, to make FCM and CBFRM successful in Thailand, it may be necessary to make changes in the existing legal framework, increase the funding support to management activities and seek full cooperation of all concerned stakeholders.



3.0 The Phase Two Study Visit to Japan

The purpose of Phase Two Study visit to Japan was to have a better exposure to the Japanese fisheries resource management systems. A team of ten participants representing the fisheries and cooperative sectors visited Japan (Tokyo and Hokkaido Province) during 15 – 29 September 2007. The team visited the following organizations and agencies:

- National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations of Japan
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan
- Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University
- Hokkaido Prefecture Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations
- Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs) in Hokkaido
- Notsuke Fishery Cooperative Ltd.
- Shibetsu Fishery Cooperative Ltd.

3.1 Observation on Japanese Management Practices

Strong political will from national to prefectural level: Based on the requirements of food security, Japan has engaged in various marine resources protection and recovery programmes, from national government to local administrative authorities.





Clear legal framework for supporting FCM and CBFMR: Japan has strong legal framework in support of fisheries resources management, such as Fisheries law, Fishery Cooperative Law, Fishing Port Law. These laws provide necessary provisions for Fishing Rights and Exclusive Rights to fishers making management of the fisheries resources much easier. In addition, the Fisheries Cooperative Law facilitates the requirements of fisheries cooperatives.

Strong institutional arrangement: The legal frameworks in support of fisheries management have also led to strong institution arrangements. The members of the FCA work in a participatory manner and networking amongst FCAs is well established, both vertically and horizontally.

Strong financial support from both local and national governments: The National and prefectural governments provide sufficient financial support for fishing infrastructures under the National Fishing Port and Community Development Programmes as well as credit and insurance programmes.

High efficiency in law enforcement: Under fishing rights scheme, FCAs have full authority to protect the fisheries resources. All members of the FCAs regularly participate in conservation of the resources.

High participation of fishers in CBFMR: All FCAs have voluntary guidance programmes for fishery resources management such as stock enhancement, fishery protection, reforestation and monitoring, control and surveillance programmes.

High capability of human resources and technology: The institutional arrangements have paved the way for technology transfer and human resource development among FCAs members.

High efficiency in fishing port management and marketing channel: In Japan, fishing ports play a major role in fish quality control and marketing. Currently, there are about 3 000 fishing ports, on an average one every 10 kilometers of the coastline. The fisher household income is essentially the same as that in other industries, providing stable economic status to coastal fishers in the country. There is strong interaction and coordination between production and marketing centers.

3.2 Application of relevant Japanese management practices to Thai situation

- The community-based fisheries resources management of Japan can be a good model for fisheries development in Thailand, However, it may be kept in mind that social, economic and political situation in the two countries is different. The HRD is somewhat difficult in Thai fisheries due to low level of education of fishers and also their poor economic status.
- The Fishery Law and Fishery Cooperatives Law of Japan can be used as model for drafting such laws for Thailand. However, due to poor collaboration among agencies concerned, enactment of new laws has become difficult in the country.

The Japanese concept of fishing right is another important aspect of good governance in fisheries. To implement fishing right system in Thailand, awareness-building amongst fishers and other stakeholders is highly essential. The Thai fishers also need to be motivated to assume the responsibility of conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources. In some fishing communities in Thailand self regulation for conservation of the resources is practiced. However, the rotation of fishing grounds practiced in Japan can also be introduced in Thailand.



Annexure 11

Possibilities of Adapting Japanese Fisheries Resource Management in the Philippines – Lessons from the First Year Project

Sandra Victoria R Arcamo¹

Summary

The paper is an overview of the first year of implementation of the Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Management (CBFM) by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asia in the Philippines. Funded by the Japanese Government and implemented by the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization, the Project is expected to contribute to the sound development of the fisheries in the region, promote cooperation and exchanges that would lead to increase in the income of the industry through appropriate interventions.

Under the Project, a select group of Filipinos went on a study visit to Tokyo and Okinawa to observe and understand the CBFM system of Japan, derive ideas that may be applied to Philippine setting.

This presentation describes the geography, economy and fisheries profile of both the Philippines and Japan; the legal frameworks, and organizational structures for fisheries resource management (FRM); issues, strategies, and effectiveness of each system/scheme. Japan's FRM is based on traditional systems of sea tenure, protection of small-scale fishers, involvement of fishers in resource management policies, homogeneity and social equity of fishers comprising the Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs), economically viable and sustainable fishing and fish farming operations, and administrative feasibility of management arrangement and measures. On the other hand, rationalizing the sustainable use of the fisheries resources and rehabilitation of degraded fish habitats in the Philippines are done through a participatory resource management scheme and capacity building for FRM both in the national and local agencies, and the stakeholders. There are opportunities for income diversification to wean the users from the depleted resources and alleviate poverty, and raise environmental awareness through information education campaign (IEC).

Applicability of Japan's FRM in the Philippines poses a challenge due to differences in the legal framework, organizational structure, culture/ customs and attitudes between the two countries. Nevertheless, existing opportunities in the Philippines for application of some Japanese community-based fisheries management experiences are presented that include the current Philippine's legal and institutional frameworks such as the Fisheries Code of 1998, devolution of authority to local governments and the establishment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils. Likewise, better information on the status of fish stocks, greater cooperation between management authorities and research institutions and the expansion and growth of fisheries cooperatives would contribute to the improved implementation of CBFM.

Nonetheless, it is very clear that fishers and communities play a vital role in carrying out CBFM, be it in the context of Japanese or Filipino culture. At the end of the day, the degree of success of CBFM will depend on strong political will, autonomous authority for stakeholders, democratized mechanisms and appropriate monitoring, intervention and support by the government authority.

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1.0 Background

The Training Project for 'Promotion of Community-based Fishery Management (CBFM) by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Asia' is funded by the Japanese Government and implemented by the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO). The Project is expected to contribute to the sound development of fisheries in the region, promote cooperation and exchanges that would lead to increase in the income of the industry through appropriate interventions. The Project commenced in the Japanese Fiscal Year 2006 and will terminate in 2010. The Philippines was selected in the first year of the Project.

A group of ten participants comprising representatives of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP), and fisheries cooperatives of Palawan visited Tokyo and Okinawa, Japan from 10-19 September 2006. The visit was primarily an exposure to the Japanese Fisheries Resource Management (FRM) System. Moreover, it was hoped that the participants would have a deeper understanding of the Japanese FRM System, pick up possible derivations for the Philippine FRM policies and programme, and obtain ideas to empower Philippine fisheries cooperatives.

While in Tokyo, the team visited the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries – MAFF (Central Government Fisheries Agency), the ICFO and the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations and the Tokyo Central Wholesale Fish Market at Tsukiji. Thereafter, the participants flew to Okinawa to visit the Prefecture Government of Okinawa, local FCAs and their fish markets and the local wholesale fish market at Naha.

2.0 Fisheries Resource Management in the Philippines

The Philippines is an archipelago and is recognized to have a long coastline. It consists of three main islands: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. There are more than 7 100 islands and of the 70 provinces, 60 are coastal. The coastline is very important in terms of food security, industry, political, and socio-economics of the country. It provides the essential nutrition to the citizens of the country, the medium for economics and business enterprise, transportation in and around the islands, fisheries, aquaculture as well as mariculture, tourism and last but not the least, employment to substantial number of the population.

In 2003, the Philippines ranked 8th among the top fish producing countries in the world with a total production of 4.16 million metric tonnes (mmt) of fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and aquatic plants (including seaweeds). The production constitutes 2.8 percent of the total world production of 146.27 mmt (*FAO website*).

The Philippines' 1.89 mmt aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans and mollusks in 2004 ranked 11th in the world and contributed 4.5 percent to the total global aquaculture production of 42.3 mmt. In terms of value, the country's aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans and mollusks has amounted to over 600 million dollars (*FAO website*). The Philippines is also the world's 2nd largest producer of aquatic plants (including seaweeds) having produced a total of 1.39 mmt or nearly 11.58 percent of the total world production of 12 mmt (*FAO website*).

The fishing industry's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) were 2.1 percent and 4.3 percent at current and constant prices, respectively. This translates to some Pesos 116 billion for current prices and Pesos 51 billion for constant prices of the country's GDP of Pesos 5 418 billion (current prices) and Pesos 1 209 billion (constant prices).

The industry also accounted for 15 percent (Pesos 116 billion) and 22.5 percent (Pesos 51 billion) of the Gross Value Added (GVA) in Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Group

of Pesos 777 billion and Pesos 231 billion at current and constant prices, respectively, the largest share next to agricultural crops.

However, the fisheries sector is in distress. The prominent issues are resource depletion that could be the result of overfishing and the use of destructive fishing methods, degradation and loss of marine habitats, stiff competition among the resource users that would include both the nationals and foreign fishers, and persistent poverty among the coastal populace and fisher folk.

2.1 Legal framework: Fisheries management in the Philippines relies on two important fisheries legislations. The old fisheries code (Presidential Decree 704) contains fisheries laws that set the stage for sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources. It includes management measures such as limiting access *e.g.* closed seasons, closed areas with specific orders coming from the Department of Agriculture (top-down), some mention of Local Government Units' (LGUs) jurisdiction, prioritization of municipal folk, and enforcement procedures, fees and sanctions.

On the other hand, the new law (Republic Act 8550) is an improvement of the old law and provides provisions for better management of the resources. It includes resource rent that is based on resource valuation studies, limited access not only to commercial fishers but also municipal fishers based on resources studies, devolvement of powers to local government within the municipal waters, peoples' empowerment in managing resources through local advisory groups *i.e.* Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils, and elevating conservation and management into an integrated one recognizing that coordination has to be done with other concerned government agencies that have a stake in the environment and are conducting activities in the coastal area.

2.2 FRM structure: The BFAR is the national agency tasked or mandated to conserve and manage the fisheries and aquatic resources in a sustainable manner. The BFAR has a central office as well as regional and provincial offices for implementation of the programmes at the field level. BFAR works very closely with the local government units (LGUs) who have jurisdiction over fisheries resources management in the municipal waters (0-15 km from the shoreline), other stakeholders most importantly the communities.

Fisheries resources management in the Philippines went through a transformation from the 70's where attention was focused solely on fish production. By mid-seventies as exploitation increased, there was marked conflict among different resource users. The realization that fisheries resources are limited came in by the late 70's and 80's and this triggered coastal resource management, particularly fisheries resource management in the country. Since then, several FRM projects have been conducted and they have successfully promoted policies and strategies for sustainable management of fisheries resources.

2.3 FRM strategies: Rationalizing the sustainable use of the fisheries resources and rehabilitation of degraded fish habitats were done through a participatory resource management (managers and stakeholders) approach, capacity building for FRM both in the national and local agencies and the stakeholders. There were opportunities for income diversification to wean away users from the depleted resources and alleviate poverty, and raise environmental awareness through information education campaign (IEC).

2.4 FRM effectiveness: There were positive effects emanating from the FRM activities. There were signs from biophysical parameters that could lead to resource recovery. Good governance was well promoted and instituted, illegal fishing declined significantly and CRM/ FRM practices were developed and available for sound advice to both mandated agencies and the communities.



Since there are no clear-cut barriers among marine ecosystems/ environments, CRM/ FRM was approached in a holistic manner. Local institutions were strengthened in terms of CRM/ FRM understanding and capability; participatory planning in addressing local issues were practiced more often than usual, which resulted in enhanced socio-economic conditions in the communities.

3.0 Japan's Fisheries Resource Management

Japan, with a land size of 378 000 sq km, is composed of four large main islands that comprise 95 percent of its territory, and 3 000 smaller islands that comprise the remaining 5 percent. It has 29 750 km of irregular coastline and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 4.5 million sq. km. The coastline of Japan is economically important as this is where hundreds of towns and villages given to fishing and aquaculture are located as well as several major international ports and many huge industrial complexes. On the other hand, most of Japan's urban centers are located on or near the coast. In many urban-industrial areas, the coastline has been extended by reclamation projects to create new land for sprawling factories, oil storage tanks, expanded harbor facilities, airports and other uses.

Fisheries play a vital role in food security in Japan. Total production volume as of 2003 was noted at 6 083 kilotons. The category-wise details are as follows:

- 2 543 kilotons offshore fisheries (medium-sized vessels)
- 1 577 kilotons coastal fisheries (small boats, set nets)
- 1 251 kilotons marine aquaculture (oysters, scallops, seaweed, yellowtail, sea bream)
- 602 kilotons far seas fisheries (large vessels outside of Japan)

Coastal fishing by small boats, set nets, or breeding techniques contributes about one-third of the industry's total production, while offshore fishing from medium-sized boats accounts for more than half of the total. Deep-sea fishing by large vessels operating far from Japan makes up the remainder. There are 6 300 fishing communities and 230 000 fishermen, 85 percent of which come from the coastal areas.

Presently, seafood sufficiency is lodged at 54-55 percent. Fish is second only to rice as a staple in the Japanese diet. Japan's fishing fleet provides most of the fish consumed domestically, although due to rising demand and decreasing catches, fish imports exceed exports. The government hopes to raise self sufficiency to 65 percent by 2012, but this is going to be a challenge as the fishing communities are located in geographically disadvantaged areas. Likewise, new entrants into the fishing sector are few and the elderly among the fishers outnumber its youth. The younger generation is inclined to join professions other than fishing. Currently, fish stocks are declining due to overfishing of spawners and juveniles and habitat destruction, particularly the sea grass beds and tidal flats. Moreover, large fishing vessels operating in distant water fishing grounds are restricted due to tightened international regulations.

3.1 Legal Framework: The basic FRM system was developed several hundred years ago, during the reign of the military shogun Tokugawa Iyeyasu in the early 17th century. In order to assure a steady supply of high-quality protein for his growing city, the shogun established a series of officially recognized fishing villages around the shores of northern Tokyo Bay. In return for supplying a portion of the catch to the shogun's castle,



each village was granted exclusive rights to the resources in the waters immediately adjacent to the community. Access to deeper waters further from shore was shared by several communities.

The tradition of exclusive inshore rights for fishing communities during the Tokugawa Period has come to be known as the exclusive common rights. The coastal fishing communities maintained autonomic nature and thus had their own rules on the use of common-property resources. The exclusive community-based rights in the in-shore waters; and the shared rights in offshore waters are two major features of the FRM system of this period that has been handed down to generations till today.

The Meiji Fisheries Law of 1901 was Japan's first legal document that institutionalized their fisheries management system. It was an advancement of the feudal system. The law made a distinction between fishing rights and fishing licenses. Fishing rights were granted for harvest of demersal species and for the use of small trap nets and other fixed gear. Fishing licenses were granted for harvest of migratory species using active gear. The formation of fishing associations was encouraged in each fishing village. Fishing rights were granted only to these associations. Fishing licenses, on the other hand, were granted to individuals or companies either by the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) or the prefecture.

The Meiji Fisheries Law of 1901 was amended in 1949 (Fisheries Law of 1949). The latter law provides the legal framework under which fisheries regulations can be established by a combination of prefecture government, FCA and special fisheries regulatory commissions. One major feature of this law is decentralization of management responsibility. While the national government directly manages large-scale and international fisheries, responsibility for medium and small-scale fisheries is delegated to the prefecture government. Likewise, the mobile fisheries are directly regulated by the prefecture government; responsibility for stationary gear and sedentary resources is delegated to the FCA. Moreover, Regional Fisheries Coordination Committees are established and they play vital role in decision making process and formulation of management options. Members of the Committees are chosen by the national government from among representatives of the offshore fishermen and fishery experts.

3.2 FRM Structure: The coastal fishing communities of Japan are autonomous in the sense that they have their own rules on the use of common-property resources. These communities are well-established fishing villages with various mutual assistance groups and village-level organizations. It is a social structure that relies on kinship, friendship, mutual help, and obligation. This traditional community structure became the foundation of the fisheries cooperatives. The Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs) came to be gradually recognized as the management group to whom the rights were granted. These associations began to represent the village in terms of resource management. The FCAs were formally established based on the FCA Law of 1948.

The fishers actively take part in fisheries resource management efforts with their self-imposed rules that are fine-tuned so as to meet their needs. This system ensures high compliance within an FCA. Beside FRM, the FCAs are multi-purpose in their businesses/ activities and provide various services for the members. The organizational structure of FCAs is three tiered: the national, prefecture and local levels. The National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations (JF Zengyoren or Japan's Fisheries Group) represents the national level, the Prefecture Federation of FCAs (Ken-gyoren) at the prefecture level, and the different FCAs and their fisher members at the local level. Almost 100 percent fishers at the local level are member of the FCAs.

3.3 Fishing Rights: The Fisheries Law adopts three categories: free fisheries, license fisheries and fishing right fisheries. No government permission is required in

free fisheries. On the other hand, a license from either the prefecture or national government is necessary to participate in license fisheries. Finally, fishing rights are issued by the prefecture government for harvesting of sedentary species, for users of trap nets and other fixed gear and for coastal aquaculture.

Fishing rights are likened to a property right that is an entitlement to operate fisheries. It is deemed a real right commensurate to that granted on land area. However, the holders of fishing rights are prohibited from indulging in free transactions *e.g.* to lease, to use and set it as mortgage and other prohibitions as required by Sea-Area Fishery Coordination Committee of Inland Water Fishing Ground Management Committee. The fishing right types are as follows:

1. set net (duration 5 years) fixed gear at a place of over 27 meters in depth *e.g.* yellowtail set net, salmon set net.
2. aquaculture right (duration 5 years; some for 10 years) operate aquaculture in some area *e.g.* aquaculture of laver, oyster culture using spat collectors, fish culture in pens, aquaculture of *Penaeus japonicus* in enclosure, hard clam culture by spreading baby clams on the sea bottom, etc.
3. common fishing right (duration 10 years) operate fisheries of common use in specified waters *e.g.* taking of abalones, top shells, and sea urchins as well as small set net fishery, fixed gillnet fishery, inland water fisheries.

3.4 FRM Strategies: Japan has been trying to restore its resources by limiting fishing efforts under the fishing license system and utilizing the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) systems. The TAC system is designed to control fishing by limiting catches to pre-fixed TAC ceilings for stocks that are caught in large numbers and are of high economic value or have poor resource conditions and are subject to the urgent conservation management system. On the other hand, TAE system is designed to control fishing by limiting fishing efforts to pre-fixed TAE ceiling on the number of operation days multiplied by the number of fishing boats, and so forth. In addition, it also embarks on Resource Recovery Plans (RRPs). Comprehensive resource recovery measures are implemented for fish species subject to recovery. The measures include reduction of fishing efforts through releasing of seedlings and conservation of the environment of fishing grounds. The national or local governments formulate these plans depending on the scope of the targeted waters.

3.5 FRM Effectiveness: The FRM system of Japan is effective in the sense that the practice began in the feudal period and is carried on to modern times. Furthermore, this traditional system of sea tenure was legally recognized through the Meiji Fisheries Law as amended by the Fisheries Law. The institutionalization of such system provided



strong protection to small-scale coastal fishers. Considering the very nature/ culture of the Japanese, there is respect for the traditional local resource management system and the norms that is embodied in it. Moreover, the fisher members actively participate in the fisheries resource management programmes.

The FCAs subsist due to economic profitability, administrative feasibility, straightforward enforcement and less economic cost on regulation. However, it was noted that conservation focus was given to some identified commercially important species instead of a holistic perspective in the light of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management. It is too exclusive and there needs to be coordination among the many diverse user groups, each of which attempt to maximize its own share of the resource leading to overfishing. Social sanctions may be effective in a close-knit village but virtually useless in terms of poaching *e.g.* recreational gathering of shellfish and other resources.



4.0 Observations

FRM in Japan is quite extensive as demonstrated by the strong political will that exists at all levels and the active participation of ZENGYOREN, KEN-GYOREN and the FCAs. The role of the FCAs in FRM system is very impressive. They engage in resource management and conservation, ensure compliance of rules and regulations, anti-pollution activities, etc. Likewise, they have strong lobbying powers and they play several functions such as credit, supply, marketing and guidance activities. They operate their fish markets in landing areas and are engaged in joint marketing business. At the outset, substantial information is available on commercially important fish stocks to assist the Fisheries Agency and the FCAs in coming up with appropriate management options. The FCAs practice self-regulation thereby cutting on economic costs. Excessive competition is also reduced to a minimum since everybody gets a fair share of the economic benefits that accrue from the fisheries.

The implementation of the Resource Recovery Plans (RRPs) to address the declining resources due to overfishing is significant. These plans are formulated based on extensive studies on the status of the resources, actual fishery operations and after thorough consultation with fishers. In addition, information culled from centralized auction markets of fishery and other products are used to determine the productivity of the fishing grounds that is important in the decision making process. It is interesting to note that there were positive results from the FRM strategies instituted under the RRP.

5.0 Applicability in the Philippines

Replication of Japan's FRM in the Philippines would rest on strong leadership and good governance, right values and attitudes, discipline and industry, as well as finance and technology in the country. Political will at all levels of governance would make a big difference in the implementation of FRM. Although some changes have been seen in the last decade, still a lot more is required to improve good governance relative to FRM in the Philippines setting. Discipline and industry among the fishers are very important in pursuing any developmental effort. There is still much to be desired in putting the common goods first and foremost before individual interests. This will be difficult in an environment where the problem of poverty has not been completely solved and appropriate technology is still lacking.

Nevertheless, there is likelihood that the FRM system of Japan may be applicable in the Philippines taking into consideration some modifications in the culture, systems and laws of the country. The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 presents robust opportunities for sustainable fisheries. It comprises the country's primary legislation

for fisheries and aquatic resources. It allocates jurisdictional responsibilities over fisheries between the national government and the cities and municipalities, through the legal definition of municipal waters extending from the shoreline up to a maximum of 15 kilometers offshore. It also includes practically all fishery violations existing in the Philippines law and consolidates them in a chapter on prohibitions and penalties. It is the nearest that any national law has come to referring to an integrated framework for management of coastal resources.

The Code has devolved extensive fisheries management powers to the cities and municipalities specifically. Within the 15-kilometer municipal waters, they exercise general jurisdiction over fisheries which include management powers through the enactment of ordinances and law enforcement, imposition of license fees, charges and rentals, closed seasons, and the designation of fish reserves, refuges and sanctuaries.

The Fisheries Code also mandates extensive consultation and cooperation between the LGUs and national government, with recommendations from the former being essential for certain actions of the latter, particularly in the case of setting of catch limits; designation of reserves for special or limited use, educational, research or special management purposes; and limitation or prohibition of fishery activities in overfished areas.

To support the LGUs in the management of fishery resources, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils (FARMCs) are created in all cities and municipalities abutting municipal waters. FARMCs are basically multi-sectoral councils with advisory and recommendatory functions, providing assistance to the national or LGUs in matters of fisheries development planning, enactment of ordinances, managements, and enforcement. They serve as the main sounding board for the local governments in matters of fisheries management.

Moreover, the government collaborates closely with the academe/ research institutions relative to management of fisheries resources. Currently, some information on the status of fish stocks is available to policy makers and resource managers to come up with the appropriate management options.

There are a large number of fisheries cooperatives registered in the country today. These are operating individually with very poor performance due to lack of income or profitable businesses. They are in dire need of substantial interventions from the government and the NGOs to ensure good performance. In addition, support should be extended to efforts on legislative and policy advocacy to establish a favorable environment for the fisheries cooperative to grow and develop into viable and strong socio-economic organizations.

On a final note, it is very clear that fishers and communities play a vital role in carrying out CBFM, be it in the context of Japanese or Filipino culture. At the end of the day, the degree of success of CBFM is measured by various parameters that would include strong political will, autonomous authority for stakeholders, democratized mechanisms and appropriate monitoring, intervention and support by government authority.





Annexure 12

Strengthening Fisher Organizations to Help Promote Fisheries Resource Management

Pinyo Kiatpinyo¹

Summary

This presentation highlights the requirements of a fisher organization to sustain itself and provide services not only to its members but also to the society at large. The suggestions contained in the presentation are based on a study conducted by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), an Inter-Governmental Organization based in Bangkok, Thailand in mid-2003 on fisher organizations in five Asian countries.

The presentation suggests that while maintaining viability is a primary concern, the organizations should have the ability to work with the government and other sectors of society to shape policies and research and development agenda, define its needs and work with others to meet those needs, bring professional or scientific advice into the development processes, and engage in mutually beneficial alliances or partnerships.

The presentation highlights the strengths and weaknesses of such organizations. It states that most organizations lack adequate funds for carrying out activities and they leverage support from government through collaborative activities, or receive grants. While such arrangements are largely acceptable, they do raise the question of independence. The presentation further suggests that it may give organizations more credibility, if they maintain a greater degree of independence.

Holding on to members and staying financially stable are undoubtedly the foremost organizational concerns of fisher organizations. Other than being able to serve members' needs, selling their products at a profit is still their best bet for staying relevant and cohesive. It appears then that to develop the potentials of fisher organizations for sustainable development, it would be best to provide them the environment and motivation to attain a status of authoritativeness. In conclusion, the presentation also suggests some steps towards professionalizing and legitimizing a fisher organization.

“Apart from staying viable and cohesive, being able to negotiate effectively is the best way fisheries organization can serve their members”

In many coastal small-scale fishers' meetings and seminars, the participants have emphasized on the following:

- the importance of fishers' participation in *priority-setting and decision making processes*, particularly at the grassroots level;
- the need to ensure *legitimacy of representation and accountability to the constituents*; representatives must be chosen by the fishers' organizations themselves and not appointed by other stakeholders, governments or research bodies;
- extension needs to be more effective, and the results of agricultural research should be more *accessible and user-friendly to the average fishers*;
- better access to research results and to *build on local knowledge*; and
- assistance in *building their leadership skills* to ensure effective representation, advocacy and policy formation, and improving their communication and information-dissemination capacities.

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The above-mentioned requirements, if fulfilled, would make the participation of the fishers more effective in the developmental processes. However, if the fishers are to be taken seriously as stakeholders in the development process, they must organize and beyond building their capacity also attain the required authoritativeness to effectively deal with the situation.

A survey conducted by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), an Inter-Governmental Organization based in Bangkok, Thailand in mid-2003 on fisher organizations in five Asian countries came up with some interesting observations, which are summarized in the following paragraphs.

While maintaining viability is a primary concern, the organizations should have the ability to work with the government and other sectors of society to shape policies and research and development agenda, define its needs and work with others to meet those needs, bring professional or scientific advice into the development processes, and engage in mutually beneficial alliances or partnerships.

The survey drew attention to key issues that relate to developing the potential of fisher organizations in promoting sustainable fisheries. The surveyed organizations were legally established, having the requisite statutory constitutions and the structure and systems including financial, to operate properly. They were generally professionally managed although no clear indications were available on whether they seriously engaged in organizational and professional development other than expanding membership or training members. The membership of the organizations comprised representatives of the industry sub-sectors and, in one case, the input suppliers. This multi-sector membership bestows some power in being able to claim a wider representation of the sector. It also provides a fair amount of authoritativeness, if the organization's opinions and advice to government or to its own ranks, are science-based and objective. The legitimacy is also well established and seen as the organizations represent various scales of producers, although in the Asian context the small-scale producers dominate.

Not surprisingly, none claimed to have adequate funding, and membership fees were sufficient only to cover essential operations. To meet other requirements, these organizations have to raise funds through various means that include leveraging support from industry sponsors and government, sale of, or commission from sale of members' products, etc. The former is a common and widely accepted way to raise revenue by organizations; but it also adds to the authoritative stature of the organizations by engaging in and providing an opportunity to discuss issues among industry, government, scientific community and NGOs. Leveraging support from government through collaborative activities, or for grants, is largely an acceptable mean, although it raises questions of independence. It may give the organizations more credibility, if a greater degree of independence could be maintained.

It is seen that most fisher organizations in Thailand are probably more dependent on government, than their counterparts in other developed regions. This works both ways for sustainability: on the one hand, government support can come in handy in keeping organizations viable and enabling them to operate, as with grants, support to conferences, promotional activities, etc. On the other hand, dependence on government risks fostering subservience or stifling initiatives to seek other ways of sustaining the organizations. Some degree of dependence on government, in the context of a developing country, is unavoidable. It has benefits, but it could suppress initiative, at best. At worst, it could lead to passivity and thus vulnerability to particular demands. An organization in such a state cannot be expected to contribute well to the development processes; it would be its own enemy by its vulnerability to being used as tool by stronger interests.

Holding on to members and staying financially stable are undoubtedly the foremost organizational concerns of fisher organizations. Other than being able to serve members' needs, selling their products at a profit is still their best bet for staying relevant and cohesive.

Pragmatically, they know that being environmentally sensitive and socially responsible in fisheries makes good business sense. However, for the small-scale fishers, or even large-scale but unorganized fishers, some elements of the market requirements can be a threat to their staying in business. This is a strong reason to attain a degree of authority to enable to take part in the negotiations. Being able to negotiate effectively - for favorable prices and terms for their product and for purchase of input supplies and equipment, for better allocation of or access to land, water and credit resources to the industry, for favorable tax structures and other incentives, for access to technology, for improvement of the marketing infrastructure and system, for fairer trade regimes, etc - is probably the best way fisher organizations can serve their members.

It appears then that to develop the potentials of fisher organizations for sustainable development, it would be best to provide them the environment and motivation to attain a status of authoritativeness.

The big question is how to get there? Here are some steps towards professionalizing and legitimizing a fisher organization.

1.0 Incorporating the organization

Organizations are officially-recognized structures that have to be incorporated on the basis of statutes that are acceptable to and agreed by the founder members. These are usually very simple in terms of the goals (*e.g.* providing a common forum) but due care and consideration have to be given to the following:

- The membership structure foreseen, including procedures for entry and expulsion,
- The nature and frequency of meetings,
- The operating structure,
- The responsibilities of members, office-holders and organization staff,
- The nature of elections of office-holders, and
- The finance – fees and how they will be calculated.

An organization should incorporate members who have similar or identical legal status and who share common goals and activities. While there may be considerable variation in the scale of operations represented, the goals of small-scale fishers are very similar





Top and bottom: The author interacting with aquaculture cooperatives.



to those of a large corporate producer. This is the position of most local and National organizations operating in the fisheries sector. Most organizations are incorporated as non-profit making bodies; therefore budgets are geared primarily to annual operating costs rather than medium-term development. As in any organization, accurate budget estimations are important since many organizations collect their funds once per year.

Generally, an organization will have a management committee or a board of directors, which is elected by the members, and include, at least, a president who is often the sole legal representative of the organization. Office-holders usually provide their work contributions on a voluntary unpaid basis. Small organizations (*i.e.* local enterprise groups) rarely have the financial resources to be able to employ professional staff and are generally entirely voluntary operations. At a national level, where more important production levels are represented and where the responsibilities of the organization may include linking to government and promotional activities, professional personnel are usually required in order to achieve the tasks established.

2.0 Managing an organization

Finance: The core finance of the organization comes from membership fees which must be fair and affordable for the members. While there are different methods for calculation of the fee, the most common technique appears to be a calculation based on two parts.

- A basic membership fee
- A production-related contribution

The funds obtained for this have to be kept solely towards organizational operations and actions. It is also essential to have a regular review of operations, strengths and weaknesses, achievements and failures, in order to improve and to build strength and influence. Skills development within the organization is extremely important, particularly when it is charged with issues that include marketing, consultation with governmental services, public relations and crisis management.

Management: All organizations should have a transparent structure for their management and administration. This is normally assured if the board of directors or, at least, a management committee is appointed by the Assembly.

Building the capacity and the capabilities of an organization are integral to its success in promoting and assisting development. In the 'information age', establishing an efficient network for cost-effective and competent communication has become much easier but also requires good information management, providing neither too little nor too much.

Decision-taking: Decisions have to be taken and the appropriate conditions for voting must be anticipated. While general management matters are usually the responsibility of the organization's director or its management structure; important decisions are usually put to the assembly of the members of the organization. While many organizations have a 'one man, one vote' structure, this may not always be the case.

In an organization, it is essential that the views of all members are taken into consideration before a public position is taken. Guaranteeing a fair hearing or consultation is one of the golden rules of operating an organization although, practically, this is not always achievable.

Organization work: Since much of the work done within an organization is voluntary, where the participants are active professionally, attention is given to the best use of skills within committees that are allocated specific tasks. By including expertise that is required for the specific topics (*e.g.* qualified delegates, experts and advisors), the results and actions, without doubt, can be of high quality.



Reporting: Many organizations have accurate data on the production and prices of the products of their members and are often aware of what is going on within the market place. Indeed, they often serve to provide National authorities with information of this nature.

In addition, all meetings are fully minuted and these are made available to the members. In certain circumstances, copies of selected material are provided to third parties on request.

A very important tool that is available to organizations, particularly if they have been accorded liaison status with governmental authorities, is that of the resolution. On matters of urgency, the resolution is a firm declaration of opinion that is addressed to authorities and that should have the weight of well-researched arguments and references.

These actions provide accounted transparency within the sector and are of considerable benefit in demonstrating the responsibilities assumed by the professional sector in addition to the support given to the actions required for assuring the development of sustainable fisheries.

3.0 Additional actions

Research, training and development: At the National level, most organizations establish links with national universities for the purposes of research work. While few organizations are able to afford full-blown research programmes, they are often able to assist with other organizations on field trials and on-site training programmes. Evidently, this should work in both directions - fishers helping students or fishers being trained in new technology. In some cases, organization's representatives have been appointed to institution committees for the guidance of long-term research policy. Furthermore, there is an increasing requirement for the production sector to provide information on its needs and requirements for the future.

Organization-led action: For organizations to develop their position in society, they cannot be passive and there are many actions that can be undertaken by organizations, for example in the form of projects or studies, seminars, symposia, even trade fairs that can be of use to their members, the government and the public at large.





Annexure 13

Closing Speech

Masaaki SATO

Secretary, ICFO

Participants, advisors and resource persons, dear cooperators, Observers, ladies and gentlemen, on this occasion of the closing ceremony of the Seminar, I would like to speak on behalf of the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO).

First of all, I would like to convey the message of thanks from the chairman of ICFO, Mr Ikuhiro Hattori, to the distinguished participants, advisors and resource persons, observers, collaborating agencies of the Thai Government, namely the Department of Fisheries, the Cooperative Promotion Department, the Fish Marketing Organization, and all those who have cooperated to make this Seminar such a productive and useful exercise. Particularly, I would like to thank the participants for their active participation in the discussions, which has made the Seminar much more meaningful.

On behalf of ICFO, I would like to extend our gratitude to the host organization, the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), headed by its chairman Mr Mongkalut Pukanut, Executive Director Mr Wit Pratuckchai, and International Relations Department Chief Mr Phanuwat Wanraway. Without the help and cooperation of CLT, it would not have been possible for ICFO to conduct the seminar. Thank you very much indeed!

Globally, the fisheries sector is facing many issues and problems that have to be addressed and Thailand is no exception. Management of fisheries has become increasingly difficult mainly due to (i) increasing cost of fuel oil and associated increase in the prices of fishing materials, (ii) stagnation in producer prices of fish due to trade liberalization, (iii) climate change and the resulting impact on the health of the living aquatic resources and (iv) poor resource management leading to decreased fish yields. While the first three factors can be solved by joint efforts of the global community, the fourth issue can be addressed locally with the cooperation and involvement of all concerned stakeholders.

Although more than 13 years have passed since the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) took effect in November, 1994, the road ahead is not smooth. As you all know, Articles 61 and 62 provide for Conservation of the Living Resources and Utilization of the Living Resources by coastal states respectively. However, as far as I now, there are very few nations in the world today where these provisions are strictly adhered to and fisheries resources are managed along the line of the provisions contained in the UNLCOS.

Though the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Regional Fisheries Resource Management Bodies are trying their best to meet the objectives of UNCLOS, this remains to be a serious issue as more than 75 percent of the major world stocks are either in the state of depletion, or over-exploitation. In order to stem the further decline of the resources, each coastal state must make utmost efforts for resource recovery.

It need not be emphasized that the fisheries resources are the key to our business. The 'Bangkok Resolution' adopted in this Seminar is very important as it has been adopted through a participatory process and should lead to proper resource management, which would ultimately contribute to the prosperity of the fishing industry of Thailand.



Lastly, on behalf of ICFO, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, for the financial support provided to ICFO for implementation of the Training Project for Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in Thailand. I do hope that the 'Bangkok Resolution' would be translated into action by cooperation among the parties concerned and would help in achieving sustainable production, creation of employment opportunities and poverty alleviation in the country.

Thank you very much for your attention.





Annexure 14

Closing Speech

Wit Pratuckchai

Executive Director

The Cooperative League of Thailand

First of all, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan in supporting the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) to host the Seminar for the 'Promotion of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management by Small-scale Fishers in Thailand' at the CLT, Bangkok City, Thailand from 24 - 26 February 2007. Since 1989, ICFO has organized four seminars to strengthen leadership of fisheries cooperatives in Thailand as well as to promote sustainable fisheries and trade of fishery products and to encourage conservation, management and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and improve the livelihoods of fishers.

As you are aware that better fisheries resource management is the key to strengthen the economy of the fishing industry and this Seminar has adequately emphasized that community-based fisheries management is needed for sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture resources in Thailand.

I do hope that the 'Bangkok Resolution' adopted in the Seminar will help strengthen the fishery cooperative in Thailand, improve the quality of life of fishers and help in improving the national food security and economic development of Thailand.

Finally, I would like to thank all participants for sparing their valuable time to participate in this Seminar and share their experiences. I would also like to thank the distinguished resource persons, namely Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava from the Bay of Bengal Programme, Dr Junichiro Okamoto, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University of Japan and Ms Sandra Victoria Arcamo from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippines and all Thai lecturers. I also wish to thank Dr Kungwan Juntarashote, Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University of Thailand for acting as the facilitator and also assisting in translation of the documents into Thai language. My special thanks go to Mr Masaaki Sato, Secretary of ICFO who has worked very hard along with our staff in organizing this Seminar. While we made our best efforts to make your stay with us comfortable and memorable, there might have been some shortcomings. Therefore, please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused to you during your stay at the CLT. I also take this opportunity to wish you a safe and pleasant journey to your respective homes.

Thank you very much.



Annexure 15

Abbreviations and acronyms

BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
AFCC	Area Fisheries Coordinating Committee
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
CBCRM	Community-based Coastal Resources Management
CLT	Cooperative League of Thailand
CM	Co-management
CO	Community Organization
CPD	Cooperative Promotion Department
CRM	Coastal Resources Management
CRMP	Coastal Resources Management Program
DA	Department of Agriculture
DOF	Department of Fisheries
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FA	Fisheries Association
FARMC	Fisheries and Aquatic Management Council
FCA	Fisheries Co-operative Association
FMO	Fisheries Management Organization
FRM	Fisheries Resource Management
ICA	International Cooperative Alliance
ICFO	International Cooperative Fisheries Organization
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
JF-ZENGYOREN	National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MPA	Marine Protected Area
RFCC	Regional Fisheries Co-ordination Committee
RRP	Resource Recovery Plan
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TAE	Total Allowable Effort
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

