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**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON FISHERIES TENURE AND USER
RIGHTS: SOUTHEAST ASIA & BAY OF BENGAL (SEABOB)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 3–5 September 2019

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Preparation of this document

This is a report of the Fisheries Tenure and User Rights: Southeast Asia & Bay of Bengal (SEABOB) Regional Workshop, which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from the Kingdom of Thailand and the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) of the Republic of Korea. The meeting was held from 3 to 5 September 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

ABSTRACT

This workshop is the first of a series of regional workshops on fisheries tenure and user rights. It aims to discover regional nuances and specificities of the SEABOB area to develop how-to guidance on appropriate tenure systems and rights-based approaches for fisheries. Representatives from both government and non-government sectors attended this workshop.

Participants at the workshop presented fisheries tenure and user rights of 13 countries, including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor-Leste.

Participants were divided into three working groups and in parallel-discussed four topics:

1) Recognition and allocation of tenure rights and responsibilities, 2) Transfers and other changes to tenure rights, 3) Administration of tenure, and 4) Responses to climate change and emergencies.

Results of the discussions were presented. Participants made recommendations for future work, including awareness raising, capacity development, and formal recognition of rights, coordination among institutions, as well as introduction and improvement of fisheries co-management.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEABOB	Southeast Asia and Bay of Bengal
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
TURFs	Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MPAs	Marine protected areas
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

Opening and Introduction

1. Ms Xiangjun Yao, FAO Regional Programme Leader for Asia and the Pacific, opened the workshop, noting that the workshop was participated by a diverse group representing the governments, non-government sectors and intergovernmental organizations.
2. She introduced the mission for the workshop is to gather knowledge and information on how to design appropriate tenure and user rights in the region for the accelerated uptake and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT 2012) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines 2014).
3. She reviewed FAO's continuing work in fisheries tenure and user rights, emphasizing that there is no one-size-fits-all form of tenure systems in fisheries management. Therefore, she invited participants to focus on regional nuances and specificities in the Southeast Asia and Bay of Bengal regions during this workshop.
4. Mr Bunchong Chumnongsittatham, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, welcomed participants to the workshop. He introduced fisheries in Thailand, highlighting its new legal and policy framework for fisheries.
5. He stressed that Thailand is the hub of significant fisheries in the region and has focused on all dimensions of sustainability. He categorized fisheries in Thailand into commercial and small-scale, noting that each country has its own definition of the two. In his conclusion, he wished all participants a successful workshop and a pleasant experience in Bangkok.
6. Mr Juan Lechuga Sanchez, FAO Consultant, presented the objectives of the workshop, including to 1) share information and practical experiences, 2) gather feedback, 3) identify challenges and 4) develop next steps. He introduced the expected outputs in response to respective objectives.
7. He informed the participants of the work schedule throughout the two and half days, which include country presentations in the first day, group discussions in the second day and finally reporting back and closing up in the last half day.
8. Participants took the group photo and introduced themselves.
9. Mr KwangSuk Oh, FAO Senior Fisheries Officer, presented the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). He introduced the VGGT as the groundbreaking global instrument that provides a reference for improving the governance of land, fisheries and forest.
10. He highlighted that tenure is the relationship among people with respect to natural resources. More specifically, he stressed tenure entails who can use what resources, for how long, and under what conditions.
11. He illustrated the structure and components of VGGT and how they are used to formulate the group discussion topics of this workshop. In the future work plan, he recalled the mandates

from the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and indicated the potential priorities for countries in the region to collaborate on.

12. Ms Susana Siar, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, delivered a presentation on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).
13. She introduced the highly participatory process during the development of the SSF Guidelines and described Chapter 5 which focuses on tenure issues in small-scale fisheries. She also showed examples of initiatives at local, regional and international levels.

Country presentations

14. Mr Shoukot Kabir Chowdhury, Assistant Director of Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Bangladesh. Fisheries contribute significantly to the country's animal protein supply and employment. Inland open water capture fisheries take more than 39 million hectares and are the majority of capture fisheries. However, inland aquaculture has rapidly grown in recent years. It now contributes to more than half of Bangladesh's fish production. The key rights-based approaches are issuing ID (fisher registration) and leasing water bodies, supplemented by social net safety-net programme for fishers. Tenure systems are administered by various agencies in Bangladesh.
15. Mr Shankar Laxman, Joint Commissioner of Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in India. India is the second largest overall fish producer in the world. Fisheries play an important role especially in the socio-economic development of India's fishers. With the production in marine fisheries levels off, inland fisheries are the primary contributor to growth in fish production. Marine fisheries within 12 nautical miles are managed by Coastal State Governments and Union Territories and those beyond 12 nautical miles are managed by the Central Government. Rights-based approaches in marine fisheries management include mandatory registration of fishing vessels, fishing licenses, area-based measures, and issuance of biometric ID to fishers. Inland fisheries are managed by local government. Freshwater aquaculture consists of most inland fish production.
16. Ms Hawwa Raufath, Research Officer at Ministry of Fisheries, marine Resources and Agriculture of Maldives, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Maldives. Major fishery species in Maldives are tuna (skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna), billfish, reef fish, grouper, and sea cucumber. Each fishery has specific management measures. Rights-based approaches in fisheries management include various licensing systems for different fisheries, harvest restrictions such as size limit and use of gear, total allowable catch/quota system, and area-based measures. Activities related to fisheries are under the jurisdiction of five government agencies, i.e. Coast Guard, Customs, Maldives Food and Drug Authority, Transport Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The government also provides infrastructure and financial services.
17. Mr Wanigasuriya Pradeep presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Sri Lanka. Customary rights are an important issue in the country, especially for small-scale fishers, in the context of economic development and multiple users exploring the coastal areas. Rights-based fisheries management entails registration of fishing vessels and gears, time restriction of fishing operations, closed areas, etc.

18. Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-governmental Organization (BOB-IGO), presented fisheries tenure and user rights in the Bay of Bengal region. The BOB-IGO has four members (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) and four cooperating countries (Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia). Fisheries in the region are characterized by large number of fishers and small boats. In terms of tenure and user rights, fishers enjoy certain customary benefits. However, these customary benefits are yet to be defined in law. It was suggested that moving towards co-management, which is defined as a process of shared responsibility and decision-making, could be the best way forward.
19. Dr Sopha Lieng, Director of Department of Community Fisheries Development (CFDD) of Cambodian Fisheries Administration, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Cambodia. According to statistics in 2018, there are 679 106 small-scale fishers in 516 fisheries communities, the main fisheries in the inland and marine waters using 117 207 fishing boats. Livelihood of millions of rural people highly depends on fisheries and its related activities. The management measures are limited-number and size of gear, limited- mesh size, fishing in the defined community fishing boundary. No fishing is allowed in conservation area. Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries (TURFs) has been applied to promote the participation and responsibility and social equality under the policy of de-centralization and de-concentration of the management authority.
20. Ms Souvanny Phommakone, Vice Head of Fisheries Resources Management Section of Fisheries Division, Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) of Lao PDR, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Lao PDR. Most rural population in the country relies on aquatic resources as a main source of protein. Total fish production is estimated at 260 700 mt/year. 87.7 percent of the county area (207 674 km²) drains into the Mekong River. The government introduced a policy focusing on aquaculture development. Administration of fisheries tenure rights are performed by Fisheries Division of the DLF, Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office, District Agriculture and Forestry Office, and Fisheries Management Committees. Right-based approaches in fisheries involve registration of fishers and boats, ID cards for fishers and Fisher Association.
21. Mr Kyaw Moe Aung, Assistant Director of Department of Fisheries of Myanmar, and Mr Mya Than Tun presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Myanmar. There are both freshwater fisheries and marine fisheries. Freshwater fisheries consist of fish culture, leasable and open fisheries. Marine fishery is consisting of inshore fisheries and offshore fisheries. A person who is going to fish shall apply for a proper fishing license, which involves duties and fees. In particular, leasable fisheries are almost exclusively key fishing grounds on flood plains which are primarily fished through the erection of barrage fences.
22. Ms Praulai Nootmorn, Senior Expert on Marine Fisheries at Department of Fisheries of Thailand, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Thailand. The total area of inland water in Thailand is approximately 45 000 square kilometers, including dams, large reservoirs, small reservoirs, rivers and basins. In addition, Thailand has extensive EEZ in Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. Thailand has implemented license for commercial fisheries, buyback, Total Effort Allowance (TEA) (applied from Total Allowable Catch). This limited access right is allocated to both artisanal fisheries and commercial fisheries. The government is working towards the following objectives: 1) to restore and maintain critical habitats, 2) to resolve conflicts between resources users, and 3) to improve the well-being of artisanal fishers and fishing communities.

23. Ms Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung, Director of Science, Technology and International Cooperation Department of Vietnam, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Vietnam. Small-scale fisheries dominate Vietnamese fisheries sector. Fisheries are multi-species and multi-fishing gears with 96 609 fishing boats of 6m or above. The emerging rights-based approach in the country is co-management, which is implemented through Fishery Community Organizations (FCOs). Based on their scope, FCOs are recognized by authorities at different levels. FCOs have clearly defined rights and duties, including managing resources in their authorized area, establishing community fund, complying with regulations, reporting to competent authorities, etc.
24. Mr Raden Mohammad Ismail, Head of Sub-Directorate, Customary Law Community, Directorate of Small Islands Utilization of Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, and Dr Sonny Koeshendrajana, Researcher at Research Institute for Marine and Fisheries of Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Indonesia. Indonesia is an archipelagic country with composing of 17 504 islands within the one of the largest exclusive economic zone in the world, covering of 99 093 coastal line and an area of 2.7 million km² and 3.2 million of territorial water. In terms of management of the fisheries resource, the country has been divided into 11 fisheries management areas (FMA) extending across more than one provincial border. The FMA is constructed as a geographical unit for developing fisheries management plans and programs that are expected to be implemented through a designated technical unit under the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. Small-scale fisheries approximately accounted for 85% of people involved in fisheries in the country. Small-scale fisheries are not regulated, nor restricted go fishing anywhere in Indonesian water, exempted from fisheries licensing and tax and only required to report on their presence to local authority where they reside. Communities of traditional fishers still practice their customary marine tenure area, and this has been acknowledged by local and central government. Fisheries management rights (FMRs) are potentially applicable for Indonesia fisheries. Area based FMRs or TURFs are compatible with the tradition of Petuanan Laut and Sasi practice. However, FMRs should not be conceived as a property right but a privilege, as they are only granted by the government authority to individual and communities after they have met clearly defined criteria.
25. Mr Ahmad Zuwairi Zainudin, Fisheries Officer at Licensing and Capture Fisheries Division of Department of Fisheries of Malaysia, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Malaysia. Six government agencies in the country are involved in fisheries management: Department of Fisheries, Fisheries Development Authority, Department of Environment, Marine Department, Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agencies, and Forestry Department. Rights-based approaches in fisheries are fishing zones, direct limitation of fishing effort, and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Fisheries Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) System is essential for the effectiveness of Malaysia's fisheries tenure and rights.
26. Ms Mary Gonzales, Senior Fishing Regulations Officer at Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic resources of the Philippines, and Dr Rodelio Subade presented fisheries tenure and user rights in the Philippines. Fisheries in the country are managed under three categories: aquaculture, inland fisheries, and marine fisheries. Marine fisheries have two sub-categories, including municipal/small-scale fisheries and commercial/industrial fisheries. The lead agency in fisheries management is the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, a line bureau under the Department of Agriculture. Rights-based approaches in fisheries management are governed by Fisheries Administrative Orders (FAOs). Particularly for municipal/small-scale fisheries,

registered fisherfolk and cooperatives have preferential rights to the fishery privileges issued by the municipal/city government.

27. Mr Celestino Cunha, National Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste, presented fisheries tenure and user rights in Timor-Leste. The primary rights-based approach in the country is area-based, especially MPAs.
28. Dr Yuttana Theparoonrat, Technical Expert at Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), presented fisheries tenure and user rights in the SEAFDEC region. SEAFDEC member countries have committed themselves to gradually introducing rights-based fisheries management systems for regulating access to coastal and marine resources. This process is supposed to go hand-in-hand with the decentralization of fisheries management authority and functions to sub-national administrative levels. SEAFDEC has recommended its members moving towards limited access, such as input control. Licensing is a common measure among its members. However, most have yet to develop mechanisms to determine the total number of vessels and fishers to be allowed to fish in delineated zones.

Working Group Discussions

29. Ms Yumi Son, FAO Consultant, introduced the arrangements for group discussions. Participants were divided into three working groups based on geographic representation as shown in the table below. She invited each group to discuss all the four topics in parallel: 1) legal recognition and allocation of tenure and user rights and responsibilities, 2) transfers and other changes to tenure and user rights and responsibilities, 3) jurisdiction, administration and enforcement of tenure and user rights, and 4) responses to climate change and emergencies.

Table 1 Discussion groups

Working group A	Working group B	Working group C
Bangladesh	Cambodia	Indonesia
India	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Malaysia
Maldives	Myanmar	Philippines
Sri Lanka	Thailand	Timor-Leste
BOBP-IGO	Vietnam	SEAFDEC

Topic 1. Legal recognition and allocation of tenure and user rights and responsibilities

Working group A

Participants were designated the following roles:

- Facilitator: Mr Sebastian Matthew
- Rapporteur: Ms Maria Göthberg
- Presenter: Mr Muhammad Mujibul Haque Munir (Topic 1), Ms Hawwa Raufath (Topic 2), Mr Wanigasuriya Arachchige Don Densil Pradeep (Topic 3), Mr Shankar Laxman (Topic 4)

1. Working Group A noted that tenure systems vary over different water bodies, such as rivers, ponds, tanks, reservoirs, flood plains etc. Recreational fisheries are not a relevant issue for countries represented in this working group, except when discussions come to

tourism, a particular issue in Maldives. It was also noted that informal tenure systems should be compatible with existing legal obligations. In the marine context, tenure rights are more area-based when they are close to shore, but resource-based further offshore. The working group stressed that tenure systems should be consistent with sustainable use and conservation of marine resources. Rights and responsibilities of tenure should come together.

2. Working Group A identified variations among the countries. In Bangladesh, inland fishing is a common practice, but the legal definition of small-scale fisher is weak. The definition should specify who is a fisher. Fisher ID-card is primarily for small-scale fisheries. Occupation in aquaculture is not considered fishers but farmers thus does not receive a fisherman ID-card. In Sri Lanka, many people work in both agriculture and fisheries. They often get stuck between administrative institutions. In India, fishing in rivers is well defined. In the case of reservoirs, the cooperatives form the major groups to whom fishing rights are assigned.
3. Main challenges under Topic 1 were summarized. The definition of small-scale fishers is complex in the region because communities change their occupation over time. People can be both fishers and farmers at the same time and use the resources for different purposes. The issue of overlapping tenure often fails small-scale fishers who do not have the power to govern their waters in practice. Examples can be found in their competition with energy sector, irrigation sector, flood control, etc. Centralized systems based on a market rationale are a challenge since they control the market, making it inefficient and static. Inland fisheries sector is more diverse in terms of resources, ranging from small ponds and tanks to rivers and their flood plains and large reservoirs. Rivers are also considered a good source of developing inland water ways which will have impact on tenure and fishery resources. However, the minimum water flow requirement in rivers is still a concept not put into practice. Besides, environmental degradation (pollution, diminishing fish stocks etc.) is a growing problem.
4. Working Group A discovered some good practices. For example, the governing of reservoirs in India is well-developed. The system of ID-cards for fishers in Bangladesh is working well. Zoning in marine fisheries is a common practice, so as registration and licensing systems in marine fisheries.
5. Working Group A made recommendations based on the discussions above:
 - Tenure rights in fisheries should be confined for fishing and fishery activities, not for other uses
 - Informal tenure systems in the marine fisheries should be documented and legal recognition of such systems should be explored
 - Tenure rights are related to both living and non-living resources. Overlapping tenure rights should be better understood
 - Governance of different resources should be harmonized
 - Tenure rights in relation to subsistence and commercial fishing should be clarified
 - Tenure rights should be seen as a tool for ensuring food security and poverty eradication
 - There is a need to better map tenure rights and how they interact with each other as well as with the natural resources
 - Tenure rights in marine sector should be considered through international instruments that govern the use of oceans, such as UNCLOS and RFMO regime

Working group B

Participants were designated the following roles:

- Facilitator: Ms Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk
 - Rapporteur: Mr Tran Van Hao
 - Presenter: Ms Praulai Nootmorn (Topic 1 & 2), Dr Sopha Lieng, Mr Kosal Mam (Topic 3 & 4)
6. Working Group B noted that there are inland, marine and recreational fisheries in the region. Data on fishery sector are inadequate, especially for small-scale fisheries. High level legal framework exists but enforcement is generally weak. Gender issues have not been recognized in some countries. Policy makers should raise their awareness and better understand fisheries tenure and user rights. Countries called for technical support from international and regional organizations through government agencies to implement pilot projects as models for local communities to get “evidence”. Legal framework has not specifically addressed license for small-scale fisheries. Countries found it difficult to have policy makers appreciate fisheries tenure and user rights.
 7. Working Group B summarized main challenges under Topic 1, including insufficient data to reflect the reality, weak linkage between tenure and user rights and SDGs, capacity of governments, timeliness of law development, etc.
 8. Working Group B discovered some good practices. For example, Cambodia has specific laws addressing small-scale fisheries. Vietnam and Lao PDR have introduced co-management in fisheries. Thailand has performed training and consultation on Royal Ordinance of Fisheries and ministerial regulations with fisher, DOF and relevant officers. Electronic license systems of commercial fishery information are available and can be accessed any time.
 9. Working Group B made recommendations based on the discussions above:
 - Improve statistics for inland, marine and recreational small-scale fisheries
 - Ensure policy makers are aware of the value of fisheries tenure and user rights
 - Collaborate with international organizations to facilitate to raise awareness of policy makers & build their capacity
 - FAO & related organizations should work with governments and non-government sectors to implement pilot projects on fisheries tenure and user rights

Working group C

Participants were designated the following roles:

- Facilitator: Mr Ulrich Schmidt
 - Rapporteur: Ms Ulrika Gunnartz
 - Presenter: Mr Rodelio Subade
10. Working Group C noted that marine fisheries have legal frameworks where user and tenure rights are recognized. Marine legal frameworks are more comprehensive than inland legal frameworks. Specific inland fisheries legislation addressing tenure and user rights should be updated, as well as its interface with forest and land. No legal framework for recreational fisheries has been established. It would be useful to develop legal frameworks and management of gleaning to recognize the rights of the poorest.

11. Working Group C identified main challenges in the region, such as lack of expertise in fisheries management and institutional capacity in local communities, poor participation of local communities in decision-making process, and inadequate capacity of local government in the implementation of national legal frameworks on customary tenure and user rights.
12. Working Group C discovered some good practices. For example, in Indonesia's 12 districts, co-management is working well because funding and capacity building have been required at local level. Inland fisheries' tenure and user rights are included in the social forestry program.
13. Working Group C made recommendations based on the discussions above:
 - Engage local communities in discussion and planning of tenure rights systems
 - Subsistence fisheries have to be taken into consideration and separated from recreational fisheries
 - Learn from examples on how to collaborate at local level for enforcing fishing rights.
 - Use examples and tools that already exist
 - Support capacity building to apply the tools (e.g. capacity for MCS)

Topic 2: Transfers and other changes to tenure and user rights and responsibilities

Working group A

14. Working Group A noted how changes in landing sites, shifting from beaches to bigger harbors, has altered the situation for women who was previously working close to the landing sites at the beach. Switching from small-scale to large-scale fishing is changing tenure rights, strengthening the hand of money lenders merchants and weakening the hand of women in the fishery value-chain. Diversification of fishing practices and fishing methods from less intensive to more intensive fishing can adversely affect the tenure of passive fishers. Extended tenure rights for trawling – a non-selective fishing method - has taken place in some countries and negatively effects environmental sustainability. MPAs and conservation areas have been established. They have negative impacts on the livelihoods of fishers by changing their tenure rights.
15. Main challenges under Topic 2 were summarized, including lack of coherence between national agencies dealing with different mandates such as environmental protection, fisheries development, tourism, shipping and navigation, oil and gas, inadequate resource management resulting in breakdown of tenure systems and rights, and lack of social protection system for small-scale fishers. Additionally, pollution and degradation of the aquatic environment results in resource depletion and the breakdown of tenure systems. Legislation is often in place but effective implementation of impact assessment (environmental and social) is lacking. Poor economic returns from fisheries are playing a major role in retaining the traditional tenure rights of fishers. In a larger scope, lack of transboundary agreements for management of inter-State rivers and other large water bodies can have negative impact on tenure rights of fishers.
16. Working Group A discovered some good practices. For example, in the Maldives biosphere reserves and some of the MPAs, while commercial fishing is prohibited,

traditional live bait fishing is still permitted providing livelihood opportunities for traditional and small-scale fishers. Following the removal of tenure rights on shark fisheries in Maldives in 2010, the government implemented a gear buy-back scheme to compensate shark fishers. In Bangladesh and India, fishers are compensated during annual suspension of fishing rights during a particular season. In India and Sri Lanka, the wetlands support fisheries and other aquatic living organisms are protected by law and any other activities are prohibited.

17. Working Group A made recommendations based on the discussions above:

- Tenure rights of destructive fishing gear should be discouraged, and tenure rights of selective, passive and responsible fishing gear and practices should be promoted
- In the context of blue economy - for example developing marine spatial plans in the region - the rights of fishers should be given preference over other uses of the ocean and protected in order to safeguard their life and livelihood
- There are a number of transboundary issues in the marine context – seasonal ban of fishing, migration of species, shipping lanes etc. – that needs to be taken into consideration in developing technical guidelines for tenure rights in the region
- Improved coherence and coordination between national agencies dealing with tenure rights and issues that directly and indirectly affects tenure rights systems
- Ensure consultation and participation of fishery stakeholders in all marine and inland area projects, programs and activities
- Ensure restitution and reparation for affected fishing communities on account of economic development activities in the region
- The Ramsar Convention should be effectively implemented in all the countries in the region
- Ensure adequate economic returns to inland traditional fisheries (enhancing stocks) in order for fishers to enjoy their tenure rights
- In the context of fisheries, strengthening coherence of inter-State institutional arrangements are needed to have a sustainable management of transboundary water bodies to protect the tenure rights of fishers

Working group B

18. Working Group B noted that local communities' rights are recognized in the region but transfer of rights is not addressed. Guidance on how to allocate and transfer rights is needed. There are conflicts among different regulations and stakeholders. This should be solved by transparent and participatory procedures.

19. Main challenges were identified, including limited capacity, lack of human and financial resources, contradictory laws and regulations, lack of scientific evidence, etc.

20. Working Group B discovered some good practices. For example, Thailand already has guidelines to implement allocation of rights in commercial fisheries. Similar guidance is being introduced to small scale fisheries. In Cambodia, decision making at high level has been supported by technical contents.

21. Working Group B made recommendations based on the discussions above:

- Use the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the mechanism to promote fisheries tenure and user rights, especially in small-scale fisheries, in policy framework and its implementation
- Call for technical support from international and regional organizations to member countries in the region on knowledge such as stock assessment
- Pay more attention to inland fisheries due to their importance for local communities
- Build capacity at all levels especially in the communities

Working group C

22. Working Group C noted that transfers and other changes to tenure and user rights vary in different countries. In Indonesia's transition from open access to allocation by auction, inland fisheries rights to certain areas are auctioned annually by the district and are transferable before it was auctioned on a local level. In Malaysia, trawlers are reallocated to more off-shore zones or the use of different gears to protect inshore fish habitats. In the Philippines, changes in tenure are introduced by MPAs with different types of fisheries access regulations. Only municipality fishers can fish in the protected area. In Timor-Leste, zoning and preferential treatment for small scale fisheries is foreseen in the coming fisheries strategy. Previous licenses to foreign commercial vessels using trammels were stopped.
23. Working Group C identified main challenges in the region. Benefits from inland fisheries were previously distributed among local communities now they may not always have access. Coastal spatial planning can accentuate competition for space – fisheries tenure and rights is an important way of claiming. It is difficult to have trawlers agree on moving further offshore or changing gears. Local communities and fishers need transparent information. Competition is possible between gleaning and MPAs.
24. Working Group C discovered some good practices. For example, reallocation of areas in the social forestry program. When reallocating trawlers, trawlers can apply to reallocate landing sites. Options are provided to change gears or to move offshore and support is available for handling the transition.
25. Working Group C made recommendations based on the discussions above:
 - Case studies or guidance on different options for handling change are needed
 - Guidance on how to incorporate transparency and participation in the process is needed. Easy access to information about legislation on tenure and access rights for users and communities should be provided
 - Illustrate good practice on coordination between local and national government

Topic 3: Administration of tenure rights

Working group A

26. Working Group A noted that the system of multiple administration of fisheries tenure is present all over the region. Moreover, the administration of fisheries tenure is often weaker than other administrative areas, partly due to the limited contribution to GDP. Contribution of fisheries to strengthening resilience to extreme natural events is large but not fully appreciated. The fishery sector is an important contributor to food and

nutritional security, livelihood support, employment opportunities, and local and national economy.

27. Working Group A identified main challenges, including inadequate legislative support to the governance of tenure rights to benefit fisheries and lack of qualified and adequate capacity in fishery administration. Users of tenure rights in inland water bodies do not get adequately compensated on account of poor resource management and conservation measures.
28. Working Group A discovered some good practices. For example, in Bangladesh, different government agencies are responsible for land, water and fishery resources and cooperate to promote fisheries activities. The situation in Maldives is the same but is also involve the private sector. In Bangladesh, private and public land is used for farming or other economic activities during the dry season. Once the land is flooded under the rainy season, the water is open for everyone to fish. The Hilsa fishery resources have been rejuvenated through co-management approaches where the government and the fishers have jointly establish sanctuaries and closed areas where the spawning fish and the juveniles are protected during certain seasons of the year. In the northern province of Sri Lanka, committees composed of government officials and fishers have been set up to manage and monitor fishery resources in marine waters, also to ensure that there is a balanced internal migration to the northern region. In India, the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the fishery administration has established co-management committees at different levels, starting from village to district and state. These committees are mandated to take decisions on management and conservation of the resources.
29. Working Group A made recommendations based on the discussions above:
 - Increase the knowledge of the contribution of fisheries in terms of livelihood opportunities and nutrition for a large number of people, even though contribution to GDP is relatively low
 - There is a need for institutional strengthening and capacity building to administer tenure rights
 - Reinvestment of revenues generated through leasing inland water bodies should be utilized to replenish the fish stocks in such water bodies
30. Working Group B noted that valuation of tenure rights often apply to land rather than fisheries. Records of tenure rights occur in the form of registration and licensing. Transboundary matters exist in the areas of competence of Regional Fisheries Management Bodies and Mekong River.
31. Main challenges in the countries represented in Working Group B are Mekong River transboundary issues and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Working group B

32. Working Group B made recommendations based on the discussions above:
 - Take up this issue to discuss at ASEAN and/or Mekong River Commission
 - Establish systems for valuation & resolutions
 - Call for technical supports to improve administration of tenure rights

- Translate VGGT and SSF Guidelines into local languages and conduct gap analysis between the two instruments and existing laws
- Develop a regional workshop on fisheries tenure and user rights among neighboring countries and submit a concept note to ASEAN on transboundary issues

Working group C

33. Working Group C noted that transition from informal customary system to legal framework has specific processes but they should be simplified. There is very little monitoring of catch and effort for small-scale fisheries.
34. Working Group C identified main challenges. Lack of resources for enforcement is a general problem in the region. Encroachment of commercial (local and foreign) fishers into municipal waters is a problem – in some cases municipal waters may be leased to commercial vessels. Enforcement is done on the local level first and then through the police, it can sometimes be difficult to enforce on influential persons. In addition, the maritime enforcement agency has a wide mandate and may not want to prioritize fisheries. Different government agencies lack effective coordination.
35. Working Group C discovered some good practices. For example, in Indonesia, there is a task force under executive office of the president to resolve agrarian conflicts. In Malaysia, enforcement agencies organize joint forces. At regional level, collaboration exists between Cambodia and Vietnam for inland fisheries enforcement.
36. Working Group C made recommendations based on the discussions above:
 - Good governance is important to avoid problems with politicians / influential persons who bias decisions about access to the resource.
 - Need to explore options such as sharing MCS system with other countries, e.g. Australia.
 - Local community enforcement can provide a lower cost option if properly implemented. This can require training program.

Topic 4: Responses to climate change and emergencies

Working group A

37. Working Group A noted that the Bay of Bengal region is unique in the sense that it is highly prone to cyclones, rogue waves, and many other events of extreme nature. The 2004 Asian tsunami created havoc of unprecedented nature and the fishery sector was one of the main victims. In the last decade or so, several developments have taken place in the region making the communities more resilient to the events of extreme nature and thereby reducing the loss of lives and property. Fisheries are recognized as one of the most dangerous occupations in the world including South Asia leading to casualties at land and at sea. Climate change, leading to extreme weather events and warming of sea water, has resulted in redistribution of fish in the region's water (for example sardines and mackerel). This both challenges and provide new opportunities for fishers in the region. The issue of sea level rise, erosion and inundation heavily affects islands and coastal land and thereby these communities' tenure rights. Coastal communities, of whom many are fishers, are often those who first need to migrate and find a new place to live and work.

38. Working Group A identified main challenges in the region. Tenure rights systems are not designed to respond to the extreme weather events. In addition, man-made disasters such as oil spills also have serious consequences on the tenure rights, in particularly small-scale and artisanal fishers. Reconstruction and rehabilitation of the fishery sector to rebuild their livelihood is a challenge due to lack of institutional arrangements and financial provisions.
39. Working Group A discovered some good practices. For example, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services plays an important role in providing early warning and other weather-related information to countries in the region. Similarly, the National Institute for Ocean Technology has installed data buoys in the Bay of Bengal to provide early warnings on tsunami to countries in the region. Further, the Indian Coast Guard serves as the focal point for Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) for countries in the region. Bangladesh Action Plan on Climate Change has given special focus on the fishery sector, such as promoting seaweed culture and building embankment to protect coastal zones and communities. Several countries in the region use community radio and other types of mass media to raise awareness and build capacity of the fishers, especially on climate change.
40. Working Group A made recommendations based on the discussions above:
- Tenure rights presently do not provide enough guidance on the compensation or assistance to communities when they are impacted by extreme weather events or man-made disasters. To overcome the situation, it is necessary that the provisions of compensation are made while tenure rights are assigned. Further, it is also essential that the communities' resilience is strengthened to overcome these emergencies as a continuous process. Building awareness should be a standing component of the process of prevention/adaptation/mitigation
 - Scientific evidence has proved that climate change has complicated impacts on fisheries. Therefore, it is essential that fishing communities and also those engaged in aquaculture in coastal waters are adequately prepared for both short-term and long-term changes due to climate variations. Such preparations should include building resilience and adaptive capacities, as well as mitigating negative impacts

Working group B

41. Working Group B noted that all the countries have plans in response to climate change and natural disasters. Some countries have created comprehensive policy while others are prepared at technical level.
42. Working Group B identified main challenges in the region, particularly lack of coordination between stakeholders in fisheries, as well as with other sectors.
43. Working Group B discovered some good practices. For example, in Thailand, when a Typhoon hits, Meteorological Department should warn communities and evacuate them. After typhoon passed, the government will provide food, housing and other assistances. Department of Fisheries will compensate fishers for their loss (fishing gear, pay for loose of fishing equipment, etc.). In Vietnam, support scheme has been developed in case of disasters. Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar frequently conducts safety practice in areas prone to disasters.

44. Working Group B made recommendations based on the discussions above:

- The compensation program should expand to small-scale fisheries not only registered farMs
- Implement climate change plans at local community level

Working group C

45. Working Group C noted that national strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation are in place in Indonesia but difficult to reach fishers if they are not registered. There are different actions are available, from insurance for capture fisheries in case of emergencies to general social government funds. Timor-Leste has a national climate change adaptation program and Malaysia is developing one. Regional collaboration on transboundary stocks and their management is taking place as changes are foreseen in migration patterns.

46. Working Group C identified main challenges in the region. Data are not enough on fishers, resulting in an incomplete insurance coverage. There is not enough data on the impact of climate change. Some fishers will have to change the time, gear and area due to changing condition of the seas due to seasons. Countries should collaborate to adapt management of straddling stocks to climate change impacts.

47. Working Group C made recommendations based on the discussions above:

- Transmission of information to local communities on disaster and climate change effects should be improved
- Identify support measures for fishers in the case of emergencies such as training, insurance or other compensatory measures
- Awareness to recognize all fishers but also certain groups, e.g. women

Results of the workshop

Regional nuances and specificities in the SEABOB regions:

- Tenure and user rights in marine fisheries are generally present in fisheries legislation frameworks but lack social protection for small scale fishers.
- More work is needed for legally formalizing customary fishing rights.
- Tenure on inland fisheries varies from different water bodies, and update of the legal framework is needed.
- Legal recognition of recreational fisheries has to be taken into consideration in the future.
- Subsistence fisheries has to be regionally defined for avoiding eviction of fishers when fishing is their last resort.

- MPAs and conservation areas have been set up in the region, and when tenure rights have not been properly considered they have impacted negatively on the livelihoods of fishers.
- It has been noted that changes in tenure and user rights go beyond fishing activities and can affect the whole value-chain provoking undesirable consequences.
- Tenure and user rights can help avoiding unsustainable fishing practices when there is dialogue between stakeholders and other alternatives available.
- Attention paid to the allocation processes is critical, and communities and their needs have to be taken into account.
- Multiple administration of fisheries tenure over inland fisheries is present all over the region.
- Processes for transitioning from customary/traditional tenure systems to legally recognized tenure system exist but need to be simplified.
- Unbalanced actions taken by the countries sharing the transboundary inland water bodies need to be addressed in the region (fair rules, regulation, dialogue and recognition of tenure rights).
- Lack of transboundary agreements for management of inter-State rivers and other large water bodies can have negative impact on tenure rights of fishers.
- The SEABOB countries are very vulnerable to natural disasters. However, development of initiatives has been taken into this region reducing loss of lives and poverty.
- Insurances for capture fisheries and government funds are allocated in the case of emergencies and the registration of tenure and user rights and allows for compensation of fishers and their families.
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation of the fishery sector is a challenge when there is lack of institutional arrangements, financial provisions and coordination between agencies.
- Climate change heavily affects inland and coastal waters, and therefore, communities' tenure rights.

Recommendations:

- Plan national/local programs to raise awareness and build capacity for all stakeholders over legal recognition and allocation, transfer and other changes, and administration of tenure and user rights
- Review and rearrange legal framework through participatory process at national level to secure small-scale fishers' tenure and user rights, including customary fishing rights.
- Respond well to climate changes and emergencies in the negotiations and implementation of adaptation and mitigation programs with fishers at local, national and regional levels

- Establish a coordination mechanism with other Ministries at national level to secure tenure and user rights specially for small scale fishers
- Coordinate and cooperate with other governments sharing transboundary water bodies to secure tenure and user rights for small scale fishers and sustain fisheries
- Develop a participatory fisheries co-management mechanism with all stakeholders, including small-scale fishers, to strengthen their tenure and fishing rights

Closing

30. Mr Johan Williams, Independent Advisor, introduced the agenda item “Towards ‘How-to’ Guidance on Fisheries Tenure and User Rights”. He reviewed the issues, topics and needs that were discussed and presented during the workshop. Regarding Topic 1, he summarized several key points, including the improvement of awareness and information, capacity building, local community engagement and formal recognition of rights. On Topic 2, relevant points were access to information and its transparency, high-level commitment, attention to transboundary issues, institutional coordination, etc. The recap for Topic 3 contained MCS system sharing, local community enforcement, MPAs, revenue reinvestment, and institutional enhancement. With respect to Topic 4, compensation was underlined, followed by resilience strengthening, awareness building, change support, and preparedness.
31. Participants discussed the relationship between governance and management. They agreed that the two are neutral concepts which can fail if not well handled.
32. The meaning of tenure and rights was explored. Participants concluded that there are caveats when it comes to the difference between user rights and ownership/property rights.
33. Participants further developed the idea of compensation. It was noted that compensation involves not only monetary measures but also other forms of assistance.
34. Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava presented the experience of co-management in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry of India in the context of post 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami rehabilitation. BOBP advocated for a legal basis to introduce co-management as it is otherwise being seen as a project experiment with uncertain long-term commitment. It conducted a series of workshops in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu to bring community on-board and acted as an honest broker. The fisheries officials trained earlier acted as facilitators. Government orders were issued for setting up a three tier co-management structure in Puducherry and four-tier structure in Tamil Nadu. Negotiation are going on between the community and the government on operationalizing the committee. A study carried out by BOBP shows that co-management can be developed as a viable business case ensuring better return, in this case for tuna fisheries.
35. Mr KwangSuk Oh presented the outcomes of this workshop. After reassuring regional nuances and specificities in the region were captured, he summarized the workshop’s final recommendations in Annex
36. Mr Pholphisim Suvanachai, Director of Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division of Department of Fisheries of Thailand and Mr KwangSuk Oh delivered closing remarks, thanking participants for their work.
37. The workshop was closed.

Annex I: List of participants

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Annex II: Agenda and timetable

SEABOB			
Time	3-Sep-19	4-Sep-19	5-Sep-19
8.40–9.00	Registration	<u>Introduction to sessions:</u> Defining the objectives, topics and expected outputs of the sessions	<u>Reporting back from working groups (session III, IV)</u>
9.00–9.10	<u>Opening</u> Ms Xiangjun Yao, Regional Programme Leader, FAORAP	<u>Breakout Session I:</u> Recognition and allocation of tenure rights and responsibilities (3 parallel working groups)	
9.10–9.20	<u>Welcome</u> Mr Bunchong Chumnongsittathum, Deputy Director-General, Department of Fisheries, Thailand		
9.20–9.40	<u>Workshop Overview</u>		
9.40–9.50	Group Photo		
9.50–10.15	Coffee		
10.15–10.30	<u>Self-introduction</u>	Coffee	
10.30–10.50	International Frameworks on Tenure and User Rights: VGGTs (Mr KwangSuk Oh, Senior Fishery Officer, FAO)	Coffee	<u>Towards "How-to" guidance on User rights</u>
10.50–11.10	International Frameworks on Tenure and User Rights: SSF Guidelines (Ms Susana Siar, Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, FAORAP)		Discussion on regional needs and guidance material in relation to the thematic areas of the workshop

11.10–11.25				
11.25–11.40	<p>Bangladesh Presenter: Mr. Shoukot Kabir Chowdhury</p> <p>-----</p> <p>India Presenter: Mr. Shankar Laxman</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Maldives Presenter: Ms. Hawwa Raufath</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Sri Lanka Presenter: Mr. Wanigasuriya Arachchige Don Densil Pradeep</p> <p>-----</p> <p>BOBP-IGO Presenter: Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava</p>	<p><u>Breakout Session II:</u></p> <p>Transfers and other changes to tenure rights</p> <p>(3 parallel working groups)</p>	<p><u>Summing up of workshop results:</u></p> <p>Regional overview Main Challenges Good Practices Recommendations</p>	
11.40–11.55				
11.55–12.10				
12.10–12.25				
12.25–12.40	Q&A			<u>Closing remarks</u>
12.40–13.40	Lunch			
13.40–13.55				
13.55–14.10	<p>Cambodia Presenter: Dr. Sopha Lieng</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Lao PDR Presenter: Ms. Souvanny Phommakone</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Myanmar Presenter: Mr. Kyaw Moe Aung</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Thailand Presenter: Ms. Praulai Nootmorn</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Vietnam Presenter: Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung</p>	<p><u>Breakout Session III:</u></p> <p>Administration of tenure</p> <p>(3 parallel working groups)</p>		
14.10–14.25				
14.25–14.40				
14.40–14.55				
14.55–15.10	Q&A			

15.10–15.25		Coffee	
15.25–15.40		Coffee	
15.40–15.55			
15.55–16.10	<p>Indonesia Presenter: Prof. Dr. Ir. Sonny Koeshendrajana</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Malaysia Presenter: Mr. Ahmad Zuwairi Zainudin</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Philippines Presenter: Ms. Mary Anne Concepcion Dela Rosario Gonzales</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Timor-Leste Presenter: Mr. Celestino Cunha</p> <p>-----</p> <p>SEAFDEC Presenter: Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat</p>	<p><u>Breakout Session IV:</u> Responses to climate change and emergencies (3 parallel working groups)</p>	
16.10–16.25			
16.25–16.40			
16.40–16.55			
16.55–17.10	Q&A		
17.10–17.25	Wrapping up of the day		
17.25–17.40			
17.40–18.05			
18.05–18.10		Wrapping up of the day	
18.30–20.00	<p>Welcome Dinner (supported by Thai DOF, Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel)</p>	<p>Dinner (supported by KMI, outside of the hotel)</p>	

Annex III: Opening remarks and welcome remarks

Opening Remarks

By Xiangjun Yao
Regional Program Leader, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
 Tenure & User Rights in Fisheries 2019: Southeast Asia & Bay of Bengal (SEABOB)
 Regional Workshop
 Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 5 September 2019

Mr Bunchong Chumnongsittatham, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand,

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure to have you here, in this vibrant city of Bangkok, for the opening of this important and timely regional workshop FAO co-organized with the Department of Fisheries of Thailand the Korea Maritime Institute of the Republic of Korea.

Today, we have over 40 registered participants, including the 13 governments' officials, 14 experts from Non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), two international governmental organizations (IGOs) and academia from the SEABOB region. This diversity, I believe, will contribute to this meeting being effective.

As you know, the purpose of the SEABOB workshop is to gather knowledge and information on how to design appropriate tenure and user rights in the region by noting regional needs and nuances to contribute to the accelerated uptake and application of the VGGT and the SSF Guidelines.

As you are well aware, fish provides millions of people around the globe with food security, nutrition and livelihood opportunities, but the people in many fishing communities throughout the world suffer from insecure tenure and access to the resources on which they depend. After all, insecure tenure specifically have led to increased conflicts amongst stakeholders, loss of livelihoods and lower incomes, food insecurity, reduced nutrition, and the fundamental economic and biological problems of overcapitalization and overfishing.

To further address the multi-faceted issues that our fisheries stakeholders face, FAO has supported stakeholders around the world by developing two sets of Guidelines:

- the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security – known as the VGGT in 2012, and
- the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale fisheries in the Context of Food security and Poverty Eradication, known as the SSF Guidelines in 2014.

Both Guidelines recognize that responsible governance of tenure is central for the realization of human rights, food security, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, social stability,

housing security, rural development, environmental protection and sustainable social and economic development.

More specifically, the VGGT seek to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people. Similarly, the SSF Guidelines called for States to ensure that small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities have secure, equitable, and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fisheries resources and small-scale fishing areas and adjacent land, with a special attention paid to women with respect to tenure rights.

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen!

Tenure and user rights in fisheries issues have been addressed by (FAO) through diverse events and publications over the last 20 years. Among them,

In 2011, FAO and Korea held a Workshop on the Governance of Tenure in Fisheries and Aquaculture to help bring fisheries issues into the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure.

In 2015, FAO and the Kingdom of Cambodia co-organized the conference Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: A global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries

In 2016, the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization hosted Entebbe 2016: Advancing a global work programme for rights-based approaches for fisheries.

In July 2016, the 32nd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries commended FAO for the global User Rights 2015 forum and welcomed the initiative of FAO on the complex topic of rights-based approaches for fisheries. COFI also underlined that FAO should serve as the neutral platform for advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches.

In 2018, User rights 2018 held in Yeosu Korea highlighted the diversity of tenure and rights-based approaches in fisheries contributing to achieving the SDGs, especially, 14.b by 2030. The recommendations of User Rights 2018 were (1) requests for local work on the ground to develop rights-based fisheries management systems, and (2) the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure and User Rights in Fisheries.

In February 2019, the Friends of User Rights 2019 (FoUR 2019) held in Fiumicino, Italy in brought broad agreement among participants on the need to develop practical guidance on the options and opportunities for fisheries stakeholders to consider when advancing fisheries tenure and user rights. We expect that such guidance to support the application of both the VGGT and SSF Guidelines and accelerate the uptake and application of the VGGT and SSF Guidelines at regional and local levels.

Thus, the next step is to organize a series of regional workshops that will reveal particular regional nuances and specificities and complete the picture the global meetings have painted while also enhancing and broadening knowledge about tenure and user rights by sharing knowledge and experiences from regional perspectives.

This brings us to today, to this workshop, and the week ahead of us.

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The design of this regional workshop has been based on the fact that there is no one-size-fits-all form of tenure or rights-based approach in fisheries management around the world.

It recognizes that rights frameworks needed to be adapted to local contexts and developed using inclusive, consultative and co-management approaches. The four concurrent session topics are intended to show the diversity of rights and systems in this region.

As a result, I expect that there will be a lively and constructive dialogue -- not only during this week, but also in the coming months and years.

We need to share and address the valid concerns, allocation, marginalization, transferability, manipulation, concentration, and loss of livelihoods, particularly when governance is weak or ineffective and when overcapacity exists if we are going to ensure more sustainable fisheries providing food security, nutrition, and livelihoods for many years to come and not leaving anyone behind.

I expect that SEABOB as the first of the regional workshop series is to be a good milestone of future work moving towards achieving SDGs by disseminating knowledge on tenure and rights-based systems to ensure that stakeholders are fully aware of their options and are engaged in sustainable fisheries resource management on an equitable basis. Besides, participants will also share ideas on how to address concerns about the fair and equitable application of user rights in capture fisheries.

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

As I look forward to the outcomes of this workshop, I would like to thank the Korea Maritime Institute of the Republic of Korea for co-organizing this important workshop and for supporting our global fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

I also offer many thanks to DOF of Thailand for sharing their fascinating culture and warm, generous hospitality, including in-kind contributions.

And, to one and all,

I thank you for coming to this regional workshop and encourage you to put your hearts and minds to work for our current and future generations.

The issues before you this week are a vital piece of our work to achieve the SDGs, and I expect this to be a productive and fruitful two and half days of experience and knowledge sharing. In particular, I look forward to learning of the next steps – the way forward -- for advancing knowledge on tenure and rights-based approaches in this region. I wish you the best in your endeavours.

Thank you so much.

Welcome Remarks

By Mr Bunchong Chumnongsittatham
Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand
 Tenure & User Rights in Fisheries 2019: Southeast Asia & Bay of Bengal (SEABOB)
 Regional Workshop
 3rd September 2019, Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Thailand

Dr Xiangjun Yao Regional Program Leader, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

KwangSuk Oh, FAO secretariat, Representatives from FAO,

Representatives from Korea Maritime Institute,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

First of all, it is indeed my great pleasure and honor to be here today at the opening session of “SEABOB Workshop”, organized by the FAO in collaboration and support by Korea Maritime Institute and Department of Fisheries of Thailand. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the participants to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand which is one of the world’s tourist destination cities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to inform you that Thailand has overhauled and modernized its fishing and fisheries sector and built a robust new legal and policy framework to ensure a more sustainable, ethical, environmentally and socially friendly industry.

Moreover, Thailand is the hub of significant fisheries in Southeast Asia and has demonstrated awareness of how important it is to secure sustainable fisheries. Thailand focuses on all dimensions for sustainability. One of the concerned contexts, fishers is the key of solution. Fishers can be separated in two main groups; commercial fisheries and small-scale fisheries. It depends on fishing gear, vessel’s size, potential and expected activities. These groups can access water bodies partially differentiated which depends on the legal in each country. It may be issued concerning livelihood, social, economic and biological problems

In the part of small-scale fisheries in Thailand, there are around 22,000 small-scale fishing vessels which has smaller than 10 Gross Tonnage using a diversity of fishing gear and practices. While small-scale fishers can go beyond the 3 nautical mile limit, they do not do so owing to the limitations posed by their vessel and engine.

However, the definition of small-scale is differentiated in each country, including the tenure and user rights in fisheries. Therefore, more than 20 years ago, FAO has attempted to address tenure and user rights in fisheries through the meetings and publications. In addition, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context National Food Security, including the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale are two main international instruments as the initial principles for development.

In consequence, we believe that the participation from everyone can lead to the purpose of this workshop which would be gather the background and inputs necessary for developing Voluntary Guidelines.

Lastly,

On behalf of the host country, I sincerely wish all of you will be comfortable and full of impressions throughout the duration of your stay in Bangkok, Thailand and wish the SEABOB Workshop be successful in all respects.

Thank you

The Fisheries Tenure and User Rights: Southeast Asia & Bay of Bengal (SEABOB) Regional Workshop was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from the Kingdom of Thailand and the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI).

It was attended by both government and non-government representatives from 13 countries in the region.

This workshop is the first of a series of regional workshops on fisheries tenure and user rights. It aims to discover regional nuances and specificities of the SEABOB region and develop how-to guidance on appropriate tenure systems and rights-based approaches for fisheries.

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