

Remark
delivered by Ms. Varin Tanasomvang
at the Opening Session
Regional Consultation on Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable
Intensification of Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific
Royal Orchid Sheraton, Bangkok.
27th November 2014

Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General of FAO/RAP
Dr. Chirdsak Veerapat, Director General of NACA
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning,

First of all, Dr. Joompol Sanguansin, Director General, Department of Fisheries, Thailand has asked me to express his regret that due to sudden assignment he could not join the Opening Session here and asked me to deliver remark for him.

On behalf of the Department of Fisheries, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to take part in this Regional Consultation on Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific. I also would like express my sincere appreciation to the FAO/RAP and NACA for organizing this Regional consultation which is considered as a significant step for promoting Sustainable Intensification Aquaculture (SIA) in our region.

As aquaculture is now already a major producer of fish for food and nutrition to world's people and that sustainable increases in production has been possible. Such increases do not always require increased inputs, but also relate to increase efficiency that can be obtained from improved bio-security and health management, feeding practices, and genetically improved seed. It is noted that rapid development of aquaculture require an effective management framework, to ensure that such development are sustainable. There have been problems with poorly aquaculture development in the region. So indicators to monitor sustainability seem to be needed and developed. Aquaculture development has been faced and agitated by emerging challenges regarding disease outbreak, fishmeal and feed limitation, international trade requirement, high investment, ecosystem-based and environmental aspects, impact of climate change and so on. So how to sustain the qualitative production to ensure world food security is to be our challenges. Thailand always agree and support the development and promotion of the SIA in our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In term of aquaculture production , in 2012 Asian aquaculture production reached 81.9 mill. ton representing 90 percent of the total world aquaculture production. This was a 9 percent increase over the previous year and a jump from the consistent 6-7 percent per annum increase over the past decade. However, many countries including Thailand have faced to the EMS problems in shrimp production industry and made decreasing its production during last few years. This indicates that the SIA in our region is very important and highly needed. Therefore I would like again to express my appreciations to FAO, APFIC and NACA for their organization of this regional consultation which aims to prioritize necessary actions at regional and national levels and also to develop strategic plan for supporting sustainable intensification in the region. The action plan would be detailed in both short-term and medium-term towards 2030. We are believe that APFIC and NACA would, always, play a major role in supporting the development of a dynamic and sustainable aquaculture in our region so far.

I am confident that this regional consultation would bring about aquaculture sustainability in the region through the development of the regional strategy and action plan for SIA for assisting the governments and relevant agencies/stakeholder in facilitating the SIA in future.

I am looking forward to your active participation in the consultation and valuable contribution of your knowledge and experience towards finalizing the regional strategy and develop a practical and implementable regional action plan for SIA.

Finally I wish a great success of this regional consultation and a pleasant stay of all the participants in Bangkok.

Thank you.