



**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE
6-7 February 2017, Bangkok, Thailand**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventh Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was organized on 6-7 February 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, and was hosted by the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand as the ASA Secretariat.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Kingdom of Thailand, as well as the representatives from relevant international/regional organizations and private sector, namely, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in the Asia-Pacific (NACA), the Thai Frozen Foods Association, and the Thai Shrimp Association. The Meeting was also attended by the officials from the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, Thailand. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**.

II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The Meeting was chaired by *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*, Director of Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division, Department of Fisheries of Thailand. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Meeting participants and conveyed to participants the apologies of *Dr. Adisorn Promthep*, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand who was unable to participate in this Meeting due to his prior commitment, and for the inability of Thailand to arrange the ASA Meeting in 2016. He then reiterated the results of the 6th Meeting of ASA, held in September 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, where full cooperation from the representatives from Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was extended through their participation; while important information was shared on the status of shrimp industry, the progress in the implementation of National Shrimp Standard, as well as the efforts that has been exerted to align National Shrimp Standard of the respective countries with the ASEAN Shrimp GAP in accordance with AEC blueprint. He expected that this ASA Meeting would further discuss and come up with action plan or way forward to achieve the goal in encouraging ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to develop their own standards in line with ASEAN Shrimp GAP by 2017. Besides, the Meeting would also discuss issues that are crucial for shrimp industry of the region such as the situation on Pathogenesis of Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND), and the U.S. Importing Measures related to Combating IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud. He then declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appear as **Annex 2**.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **Annex 3**.

IV. GLOBAL SHRIMP FARMING SITUATION AND ITS CHALLENGES TO ASEAN SHRIMP PRODUCERS

5. The representative from Thailand, *Dr. Putth Songsangjinda*, Senior Expert on Marine Shrimp Aquaculture, Department of Fisheries, provided an overview on shrimp farming through his presentation entitled “Global Shrimp Farming Situation and Its Challenges to ASEAN Shrimp Producers.” He reiterated that the AMSs had played significant roles in shrimp production to supply the world market since 1995-2002. Nevertheless, the outbreak of Slow Growth Syndrome resulted in the collapse of black tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) farming in the region, and white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) was subsequently introduced to substitute and maintain the level of shrimp production. However, the outbreak of new emerging disease, the EMS (later on called AHPND) which occurred in China, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Thailand and Mexico during 2009-2014, resulted in significant declination of shrimp production in the region. This, on the other hand, created opportunity for countries without disease outbreak to increase their supply of shrimp production to the world market. In 2016, shrimp production situation of ASEAN slightly recovered (e.g. about 15% in Thailand) due to the implementation of several measures to reduce negative impacts from disease outbreak. At present, there are still several challenges for shrimp farming in the region including, intensification of aquaculture, larval quality, genetics and water quality management. These would lead to future development of shrimp farming techniques, as well as the common disease outbreak (Virus, AHPND/EMS), including the new emerging of *Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei* (EHP) which is shrimp parasite that could make a large damage to shrimp farming in the region. Researchers and farmers need to pay more attention to monitor and find out potential preventive measures. There are also external challenges, such as the trade-binding private certification schemes that shrimp producers in the region may have to apply and result in higher production cost. Lastly, he encouraged all AMSs to put more efforts in order to achieve the objectives of ASA that has been established since 2009. His presentation appears as **Annex4**.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF ASEAN SHRIMP GAP

6. The representative from Cambodia, *Mr. Suy Serywath*, Director of Marine Fisheries Research and Development Institute, the Fisheries Administration (FiA), presented the situation of marine fisheries production in 2016, which illustrated that captured shrimp contributed to approximately 10% of total marine fisheries production in Cambodia, while cultured shrimp contributed to only approximately 1% of total marine fisheries production. He added that due to the outbreak of White Spot Disease (WSD) in 1990s, several shrimp farmers in Cambodia gave up their activities, and most of the remaining farmers undertook only small-scale shrimp farming operations. However, these farmers are still facing with challenges such as on seed supply, feed and technology, etc. He also mentioned that coastal areas of Cambodia are suitable for aquaculture development in general, including possibility for development of shrimp farming. However, at present there are also other activities, such as infrastructures and tourism facilities, e.g. ports, resorts, etc., developed along coastal areas. He further informed the Meeting that the Government of Cambodia has a policy to encourage private and international investors to invest in marine aquaculture development as well.

7. The representative from Republic of Indonesia, *Mrs. Debora Prihatmajanti*, Chief of Certification Sub-division, Directorate General of Aquaculture, presented the progress in development of IndoGAP which started in 2004 with particular focus on Food Safety in shrimp. The IndoGAP was subsequently harmonized with the FAO Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification, the Guidelines for ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP Standard during 2012-2015. Indonesia is planning to implement the certification of IndoGAP, which is to be conducted by third party certification body, in 2017 based on ISO 17065 process certification scheme. The

presentation also illustrated the number of certified farms and hatcheries in Indonesia. Her presentation appears as **Annex 5**.

8. The representative from Malaysia, *Mr. Johari bin Tim*, Fishery Officer, Aquaculture Development Division, presented the development of the myGAP certification which started in 2013, involving 3 sub-sectors namely: agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture (fisheries). For standard development, DoF Malaysia has aligned the Malaysian Standard, MS1998:2007 a Good Aquaculture Practice-Aquaculture Farms, with FAO Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification, ASEAN Shrimp GAP and ASEAN GAqP.

9. The representative from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, *Mr. Shwe Kyaw Aung*, Assistant Fisheries Officer, Department of Fisheries, presented the status of Myanmar fisheries production from 2011 to 2016. As for shrimp aquaculture, the most common culture species is tiger shrimp (*P. monodon*), and the culture relies mostly on brooders and postlarvae imported from neighboring countries, especially Thailand. Most of shrimp culture in the country is under semi-intensive system, with only two intensive farms owned by Japanese company. Up to present, there has never been report of serious diseases such as AHPND in Myanmar. The Myanmar Government is now in the process of aligning the country National Shrimp GAP with ASEAN Shrimp GAP.

10. The representative from Thailand, *Ms. Ubolratana Suntornratana*, Fisheries Biologist, Department of Fisheries, reported that the progress on ASEAN Shrimp GAP certification in Thailand has followed the strategic plan of the ASA. Alignment of the national standard GAP-TAS 7401 was completed since 2014, and certification services could be provided to shrimp farms based on this. On the implementation of the ASEAN Shrimp GAP, Thailand is now under the process of completing the certification scheme, following the International Standard ISO/IEC 17067. However, there is still an issue on regional certification where Thailand would like to seek more clarification.

VI. PATHOGENESIS OF ACUTE HEPATOPANCREATIC NECROSIS DISEASE (AHPND) IN SHRIMP

11. The representative from Republic of Indonesia, *Mrs. Debora Prihatmajanti*, Chief of Certification Sub-division, Directorate General of Aquaculture, presented the statistic of shrimp production from Indonesia and disease outbreak situation. She informed the Meeting on measures for shrimp health management in Indonesia, which comprise: 1) Import regulation; 2) Integrated fish health station; 3) Shrimp health monitoring & disease surveillance; 4) Indonesia Aquatic Animal Diseases Alert System (IAADAS); 5) Socialization/dissemination of preventive action; and 6) Regulation on environment management & GAP implementation. In Indonesia, the first WFD infection was found in 2014. During 2015-2016, the Government announced strategy to prevent WFD outbreak, which also includes regulation on environmental management. For AHPND, there was no report on outbreak in Indonesia.

12. The representative from Republic of Indonesia urged SEAFDEC and AMSs to consider the directives made by the 48th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on the necessity for Regional Early Warning System considering that more shrimp disease problems are likely to occur in the region.

13. The representative from Malaysia, *Mr. Johari bin Tim*, Fishery Officer, Aquaculture Development Division, Department of Fisheries Malaysia, informed the Meeting that the first occurrence of AHPND in Malaysia was reported in 2011, causing an estimated losses of USD 0.49 billion. While the shrimp industry has managed to contain the AHPND, shrimp production

of Malaysia could achieve only 66% of the annual projection in 2016. The DOF Malaysia had AHPND study program with diverse phases during 2011-2013, including the Roadshow and Awareness Program. Based on the National Fish Health Research Center (Nafish), AHPND positive cases in Malaysia has decreased to 4% in white shrimp (*L. vannamei*) and 5% in tiger prawn (*P. monodon*) in 2015. For future direction, Malaysia would focus on R&D on early detection of AHPND at farm level, biosecurity measures in hatcheries and grow-out facilities, and surveillance program.

14. The representative from Thailand, *Ms. Jaree Polchana*, Fisheries Biologist, Department of Fisheries, informed the Meeting that the serious problems caused by AHPND in Thailand since 2012 had resulted in reduction of marine shrimp production during 2012-2014. However, the DoF Thailand has exerted an effort to cope with disease outbreak by undertaking several actions to mitigate the impacts of AHPND, including allowing flexibility in importation of white shrimp (*L. vannamei*) broodstock to increase genetic diversity, screening of diseases in shrimp broodstock and postlarvae, as well as provision of guidelines and laboratory services for improving farm management. Statistics on farmed shrimp production in 2015-2016 showed an increase in production compared with those in 2012-2014. At present, Thailand has completed the development of mandatory standards on “Good Aquaculture Practices for hatchery of disease free Pacific White Shrimp (*L. vannamei*)” (GAP TAS 7432-2015) that could be one of the measures to prevent spreading of shrimp diseases in the future.

15. There was no report on the situation of diseases occurrence from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Cambodia.

VII. DISCUSSION ON THE US IMPORTING MEASURES RELATED TO COMBATING IUU FISHING AND SEAFOOD FRAUD

16. The Meeting was informed by the representative of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, Policy and Program Coordinator, that on December 8, 2016, NOAA Fisheries released the Final Rule Establishing the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP). The Program establishes, for imports of certain seafood products, the reporting and record keeping requirements needed to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)-caught and/or misrepresented seafood from entering U.S. commerce. This is the first-phase of a risk-based traceability program - requiring the importer of record to provide and report key data - from the point of harvest to the point of entry into U.S. commerce - on an initial list of imported fish and fish products identified as particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing and/or seafood fraud. The importer of record will be required to keep records regarding the chain of custody of the fish or fish product from harvest to point of entry into U.S. The list of 13 At-Risk Seafood Species, comprises: Abalone, Atlantic Cod, Blue Crab (Atlantic), Dolphin fish (Mahi Mahi), Grouper, King Crab (red), Pacific Cod, Red Snapper, Sea Cucumber, Sharks, Shrimp, Swordfish, Tunas: *Albacore, Bigeye, Skipjack, Yellowfin, and Bluefin*. However, rules on shrimp and abalone importation to the U.S. would be entered into force soon after 1 January 2018.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON THE WAY FORWARD TO ALIGN/DEVELOP ASEAN SHRIMP GAP

17. The Meeting noted that most of shrimp-producing AMSs, namely: Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, has already aligned their respective National GAP with ASEAN Shrimp GAP. However, Cambodia representatives reported that the National GAP of Cambodia is still under development process.

18. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to follow up the countries that could not participate in this Meeting whether their National GAPs have been developed and aligned with the ASEAN Shrimp GAP.

19. The representative of Thailand, *Ms. Ubolratana Suntornratana*, Fisheries Biologist, Department of Fisheries, suggested that:

- The ASEAN consumers should be educated on the ASEAN shrimp GAP and its intensification in intra-regional trade; and
- A working group should be established,
- as the GAqP Working Group, to consider on the MRAs and certification scheme for shrimp standards.

20. The Chairperson suggested that the future activities of ASA should be participated in by all AMSs to enable proper working mechanism in the implementation of the ASEAN Shrimp GAP. This matter should be raised for further discussion at the 25th ASWGFi Meeting.

IX. OTHER MATTERS

21. The Meeting was informed that Australia has recently launched temporary measure to suspend importation of raw shrimps into Australia, starting from 9 January 2017 until 9 July 2017, as a result of the outbreak of White Spot Disease.

X. DATE AND VENUE OF THE 8th ASA MEETING

22. The secretariat would further communicate with the AMSs to inform on the date and venue of the 8th ASA Meeting.

XI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

23. The Chairperson, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*, expressed his appreciation to the representatives from the AMSs and regional/international organizations for their active participation and valuable inputs that would strengthen cooperation under the ASA framework in the future.