



**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE  
21-22 March 2018, Bangkok, Thailand**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Eighth Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was organized during 21-22 March 2018 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, the Kingdom of Thailand, and Viet Nam 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. Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, Deputy Director – General, Department of Fisheries of Thailand delivered the opening remark. He referred that in the past decade, exporting countries have encountered trade barriers regarding aquaculture standard, food additives & contaminants inspection, US anti – dumping on imported shrimp, shrimp farming that have a devastating effect on environment, child labor and alien labor. With these reasons, exporting countries in ASEAN has integratedly developed ASEAN Shrimp Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) and expected that it will be internationally recognized to empower ourselves in a negotiation with importing countries. Another challenge shrimp industry facing is that importing countries has forced their contracted farmers to operate shrimp farm according to their standards causing farmers to make a costly investment on farming system improvement and then on the process of farm inspection and assessment. Moreover, for the past years, international organizations have established their aquaculture standards which confusing farmers and put more burden in compliance with those standards. In this way, ASEAN Shrimp GAP will be a tool to deal with the aforesaid challenges. ASEAN Shrimp GAP consists of 4 principles; namely Food Safety; Animal Health and Welfare; Environmental Integrity; and Socio – economic Aspects. He also referred the results of the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries held during 14 – 19 May 2017 in Singapore, Thailand as the interim Secretariat of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance reported the progress of benchmarking implementation to the Meeting that most of ASEAN Member States has completely benchmarked their National Shrimp GAP with ASEAN Shrimp GAP, except for Cambodia that plan to finish the benchmarking in 2017 while Lao PDR and Singapore are non – commercial shrimp producer so benchmarking will not be implemented. He also expected the meeting will help strengthening cooperation among us, create unity and ensure that regional shrimp industry will be developed and strengthened with sustainability. 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. REVIEW OF STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ASEAN SHRIMP GAP APPLIED TO NATIONAL SHRIMP GAP

5. 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, included the status of marine fisheries production, strategic planning, as well as building legal instruments and integrated cooperation among ministries in Cambodia. He informed the meeting that coastal areas of Cambodia are suitable for aquaculture development, including shrimp farming. However, it was affected by development of many infrastructures and tourism projects along coastal areas. According to the fisheries strategic planning framework (2015-2024), there are two pillars focusing the activities related to development of aquaculture and fisheries value chain which development of guidelines on the aquaculture good practice and promotion of GHP, GMP, and HACCP guidelines for SMEs were covered. The details of fisheries strategic plan also indicated that implementation of Good Aquaculture Practices for commercial aquaculture farms will be started within the period of this phase. To achieve this target, he mentioned that enhance capacity building of officers and farmers is needed. His presentation appears as **Annex 4**.

6. The representative from Republic of Indonesia, Mrs. Debora Prihatmajanti, Chief of Brackishwater & Marine Culture Sub-division, Directorate General of Aquaculture, presented the status of Indonesian shrimp culture, included implementation of Indonesian shrimp GAP standard and national biosecurity. She explained that there are two major species commercial farmed marine shrimps in Indonesia, namely Giant Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) and Whiteleg Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*). Presently, the Indonesian Government has worked closely with private sector focusing on "Improvement of Shrimp Culture Program" which operated many activities related to cluster management, rising productivity, coastal rehabilitation, biosecurity on farm, social forestry integrated with aquaculture, as well as environment improvement through communal approach. Furthermore, surveillance and monitoring program, risk analysis, disease control, and emergency response national strategy were also included in the details of national fisheries strategy. She reported that shrimp disease outbreak (White spot disease and Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis, IHNN) was found at some of shrimp farming areas in 2017. In order to control situation of disease outbreak, the Disease Reporting Mechanism was established. Moreover, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, in collaborative with the FAO, has published and disseminated documents on Shrimp Health, included Guidelines for surveillance of shrimp diseases and Guidelines for emergency preparedness and contingency plan on shrimp disease, etc. Her presentation appears as **Annex 5**.

7. The representative from Malaysia, Mr. Roslan Abu Hasan, Fishery Officer, Aquaculture Development Division, Department of Fisheries of Malaysia, presented the current status of national good agriculture practices in aquaculture sector. It was mentioned that development of the myGAP certification was started in 2013, involving 3 sub-sectors namely: agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture (fisheries). Additionally, in 2017, MyGAP MS 1998:2007 Good Aquaculture Practice (GaQP) – Aquaculture Farm was revised and updated to MS 1998:2017. He explained that under MyGAP, there are many activities related to promotional and capacity building Programmes, including exhibition, mass media, publication, direct selling of myGAP product: at hypermarket, as well as provision of technical assistance to auditors and farmers. It was mentioned that limitation of MyGAP acceptance could be found due to low awareness of consumers and ignorance of differentiation with non-certification products. He also presented the main problems and obstacles in shrimp farming industry, which climate change, diseases occurrence and environment concern were included. In addition, the Malaysian Government has planned to harmonize/benchmark MyGAP with other international scheme in the near future. He concluded that MyGAP has moved from fulfilling food safety and quality, environmental and

good practices requirements into important market tool for wider international market access and recognition. His presentation appears as **Annex 6**.

8. The representative from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr. Saw Lah Phaw Wah, Director of Aquaculture Division, Department of Fisheries, explained the status of aquaculture development in Myanmar, including fisheries policy and fisheries development plan. The objectives of fisheries policy are to ensure food security and food safety by conserving fisheries resources and sustaining development of the fisheries sector in accordance with fisheries law. There are several activities under development plan of action which Good Aquaculture Practices was also included. He mentioned that development of aquaculture has been sped up significantly due to encouragement of the Government and close monitoring of DoF. It was reported that freshwater fish culture is dominant aquaculture in Myanmar, while the most popular farmed shrimps are Black Tiger Prawn, White leg Shrimp and Giant Freshwater Prawn. However, the culture relies mostly on post - larvae imported from neighboring countries, especially Thailand. He also reported that the GAP extension team was established in 2016 providing technical assistance through 17 training courses at the farming areas in 5 Regions and 2 States. This could assist the fish farmers to understand the basic principles of food safety, traceability and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP). It was confirmed that the National Shrimp GAP has aligned with ASEAN Shrimp GAP. His presentation appears as **Annex 7**.

9. The representative from Thailand, Dr. Chutima Khomwilai, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Coastal Aquaculture Research and Development Division, Department of Fisheries, presented the status of implementation of ASEAN Shrimp GAP and National Shrimp GAP shrimp farming in Thailand. She reported that production from shrimp farming has rapidly increased after expansion of intensive Black Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) farming. However, the outbreak of Slow Growth Syndrome resulted in the collapse of farming, therefore; white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) was introduced instead to maintain the level of shrimp production reaching a peak level of production in 2012 with amount of 497,834 tonnes. In 2013-2015, shrimp production subsequently declined as a result of outbreak of viral diseases. The data showed that total shrimp production in 2017 was 255,125 tonnes, which about 85% of total production was exported to many countries including the U.S., Japan, Viet Nam, the EU, Canada, Australia, and South Korea, etc. According to the statistical data from the Thai DoF, there are almost 9,400 certified shrimp farms and hatcheries distributing in the coastal provinces throughout the country. The existing certification standard included GAP-DoF, the CoC, GAP-TAS 7401-2014, GAP-TAS 7432-2015, and GAP-TAS 7422-2010. She clarified that GAP – TAS 7401 2014 has been aligned with the ASEAN Shrimp GAP already. She also mentioned that occurrence of shrimp diseases (WSSV, EMS, EHP) in farming areas is the most problem. In order to improve shrimp farm management, the Thai DoF has taken an action on surveillance and monitor shrimp diseases according to OIE listed diseases with close collaboration through diseases reporting network among officials, researchers and farmers. She added that the other obstacles in the Thai shrimp farming industry are insufficient supplies of shrimp production, high competition among producing countries, and trade barrier. Her presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

10. The representative from Viet Nam, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Bang Tam, Official of Aquaculture Department, Directorate of Fisheries presented the status of implementation of VietGAP standard which is the national standard for good aquaculture practices and guidelines applying to Pangasius, Black Tiger Prawn, Whiteleg Shrimp and Tilapia. She also presented its scope and subjects including the issues of legal document development, certification and accreditation system, as well as human resources to implement VietGAP program, VietGAP application and benchmarking. There are 5 important components under the VietGAP standard, including: 1) general regulation; 2) food safety and quality; 3) aquatic animal health management; 4) environmental integrity; and 5) social economic aspect. The information of VietGAP

Guidelines has been continuously disseminated via mass media. She informed the meeting that VietGAP website was established since 2012 ([www.vietgap.tongcucthuysan.gov.vn](http://www.vietgap.tongcucthuysan.gov.vn)) in order to provide online services for the applicants. The objectives of the website are publicizing information of legislation documents, related technical regulation, certified producers, accredited CBs, and images related to safety products in general and farming production. VietGAP code will be provided automatically when the application is accepted. This will also allow the users to access their important information, such as name of certified farmers, total area, production, etc. It was reported that 1,060 farmers and 210 local authorities were attended the training course on ISO 9001:2008, TCVN 7457:2004, ISO 17011, 17065, VietGAP. She also informed that the government has signed and implemented the MoU on benchmarking between DFish with GlobalGAP, BAP, ASC and GSSI. Her presentation appears as **Annex 9**.

#### **V. ESTABLISHMENT ON CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ASEAN SHRIMP GAP**

11. The representative from Thailand, Ms. Montira Thavornytikarn, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Fisheries Commodity Standard Certification and Traceability Division (FCSTD), Department of Fisheries, presented the establishment on certification system for ASEAN Shrimp GAP. In 2009, the working group for standard development was established. The ASEAN shrimp standard was announced in 2011 and Thailand Quality Certification System was established in 2010 and Certification Body of the DoF has been accredited since 2012. In addition, the National Standard for Marine Shrimp Culture: GAP TAS 7401-2009 aligned the ASEAN Shrimp GAP and has been implemented as GAP TAS 7401-2014 since 2014. At the same year, checklist for farm auditing for both GAP-TAS 7401 and ASEAN Shrimp GAP was completely developed. It was mentioned that there are four main processes under GAP certification in Thailand, including: 1) request for application; 2) farm audit; 3) laboratory testing; and 4) certified farm approval and publicizing. She also informed the meeting to consider the proposed options regarding certification system for ASEAN Shrimp GAP as follows: 1) CB develop their own certification scheme for ASEAN Shrimp GAP; 2) AMSs design the certification mark/logo agreement for ASEAN mutual standard identification and product labelling; 3) AMSs formulate the ASEAN GAqP certification scheme; and 4) Mutual Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standard and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA).

#### **VI. POSSIBILITY OF ASEAN SHRIMP GAP LOGO RECOGNITION FOR THE STANDARD CERTIFICATE AND ITS PROMOTION CAMPAIGN**

12. The representative from Thailand, Mr. Manat Larpphon, Senior Standard Officer, National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, presented the Roadmap of Food Safety of MOAC. There are two types of Thai Agricultural Commodity Standard Act 2008 for Agricultural Commodity, mandatory and voluntary standards including: produce or a product derived from agriculture, fishery, livestock or forestry and their by-product. The agricultural commodity is subjected to mandatory or voluntary standard as determined by the Ministerial Regulation or the Ministerial Notification. The mandatory standard required the producers, exporters and importers of the certain agricultural commodities to have a license of inspection or certification issued by the approved certification body (CB). While the voluntary standard is inspected or certified on voluntary basis. Both standard have their own distinguished standard certification mark that displays name of the certification body, certified standard and certificated holder. The certification mark is used to ensure the consumers of the confided production system and thus the safety and quality of the products. It also a part of traceability.

13. The Meeting agreed in principle that there is a substantial need to develop a common certification scheme and certified logo for ASEAN standards and agreed to seek for approval from ASWGFi and AMAF accordingly.

#### **VII. DISCUSSION ON THE RULE ESTABLISHING THE SEAFOOD IMPORT MONITORING PROGRAM APPLIES TO SEAFOOD ENTERING THE U.S. FROM FOREIGN COUNTRY**

14. The representative from Thailand, Mr. Chairat Bamrungsook, Fishery Biologist, Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division, Department of Fisheries of Thailand, presented that Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) was established by NOAA fisheries to ensure that seafood entering the U.S. market are not derived from IUU fishing or subjected to seafood fraud. Consequently, seafood importers are required to submit information about the harvest of fish and to keep records from the point of harvest to the point of entry into the U.S. NOAA Fisheries published a final rule establishing the SIMP on December 9, 2016. The collection of harvest and landing documentation will be accomplished through the International Trade Data System (ITDS) while import harvest and landing data will be submitted through ITDS at the time of entry. Importer of record are the U.S. entities taking responsibility for the import under U.S. Customs regulations and will be required to hold an IFTP issued by NOAA Fisheries. 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. Additionally, compliance with reporting and recordkeeping requirements in the rule for priority species other than shrimp and abalone will be mandatory starting January 1, 2018. NOAA Fisheries stayed the effective date of the rule for shrimp and abalone until recordkeeping requirements for domestic aquaculture production can be identified. The action will be published in the Federal Register to lift the stay of the effective date of the rule pertaining to shrimp and abalone when the domestic reporting and recordkeeping gaps have been closed. Furthermore, adequate advance notice to the trade community will be provided to allow it the opportunity to establish reporting and recordkeeping systems necessary to comply with the program.

#### **VIII. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL MECHANISMS FOR QUICK REACTION BY EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE IMPOSED BY IMPORTING MARKETS**

15. Referring to the 20<sup>th</sup> Fisheries Consultative Group of the Fisheries Consultative Group/ASEAN – SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Meeting, which was held in Bangkok during 30 November – 1 December 2017, the Meeting suggested that discussion of the ASA should cover all the requirements in the whole value chain of shrimp products, including possibility of establishment of a mechanism for quick reaction by exporting countries in responding to the technical barriers to trade impose by importing markets.

16. The Meeting suggested to consider the proper usage of common ASEAN farmed shrimp logo. Preparation of the ASEAN Regional Scheme to be a well – known certification scheme and to be accepted by buyers/customers. A Roadmap of strategic plan should be established and a working group that study the AMSs standards and regional mechanism to certify the ASEAN standard should be notified, established and supported by the AMSs, in order to complete the first step of regional scheme certification preparation.

17. The meeting agreed to set up a platform for AMSs to react quickly to the requirement of the importing countries with the involvement from private sector, transferring information

and also join hands as one common voice of ASEAN. The meeting suggested to use NACA website as a platform for information sharing as well as ASEAN Shrimp Alliance's website.

#### **IX. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE EIGHTH ASA MEETING**

18. According to the recommendation of the 18<sup>th</sup> Fisheries Consultative Group/ASEAN SEAFDEC Statistic Partnership regarding rotation of hosting the annual ASA Meeting, the Meeting agreed that rotation of the next organization of ASA Meeting should be raised for further discussion during the 26<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting.

19. The report of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting was adopted, date and venue of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASA Meeting will be upon further consideration.

#### **X. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

20. The Chairperson, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, expressed his appreciation to the representatives from the AMSs and regional/international organizations for their active participation and constructive suggestions that would assist ASEAN to move forward on strengthening cooperation and creating unity among AMSs regarding promoting regional shrimp trade under the ASA framework.