

Regional Workshop on Methods for Aquaculture Policy Analysis, Development and Implementation in Selected Southeast Asian Countries

**Cecile Brugere¹, Simon Funge-Smith², Brian Davy³
and Koji Yamanoto³**

¹Aquaculture Service
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Rome, Italy
Cecile.Brugere@fao.org

²FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), Bangkok, Thailand
Simon.Fungesmith@fao.org

³Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Bangkok, Thailand
bdavy@gmail.com, Koji.@enaca.org

The Regional Workshop on “Methods for aquaculture policy analysis, development and implementation in selected Southeast Asian countries” was held in Bangkok, Thailand, 9-11 December 2009 and co-organized by FAO and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA). A total of 18 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines, Viet Nam and Malaysia attended the workshop. SEAFDEC and ASEAN secretariats were also represented. The purpose of the workshop was threefold: first, to respond to the request of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture III for FAO (New Delhi, 2006) to provide and disseminate information and advice on aquaculture policy formulation and implementation; second, to build capacity related to aquaculture planning and policy development by providing participants with methods for aquaculture policy analysis, formulation and implementation; and third, to further the work initiated during the FAO Expert Consultation on Improving Planning and Policy Development in Aquaculture (Rome, 2008) and follow-up on its recommendations.

Through a series of very informative presentations on the status of aquaculture planning in participating countries, discussions, group work and facilitated exercises, 6 essential characteristics of aquaculture policies were identified. These include: participation, achievability, accountability, continuity, monitoring and evaluation, and balancing goals. Participants were also encouraged to critically reflect on their own experiences through a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis of the planning processes undertaken in their own countries and on the relevance of the contents of their aquaculture policies. Discussions led to the

formulation of a number of recommendations to make the contents of the outline for a proposed FAO Technical Guidelines for aquaculture policy formulation and implementation more specific to Southeast Asian circumstances. The workshop also generated a number of ideas to lay the foundation for a common vision for aquaculture development in Southeast Asia, highlighting that such a regional capacity building process was also an opportunity to promote regional cooperation amongst aquaculture nations. Participants were requested to send to FAO through the Aquaculture Service (FIRA), or the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), their national policies or plans, even in local languages, once they have been officially approved by their governments (for most, in early 2010) towards the constitution of repository of aquaculture policies. This request should be extended to all those who are involved in national aquaculture planning.

Further information about the workshop and its outcomes are available in the Report of the Regional Workshop on Methods for Aquaculture Policy Analysis, Development and Implementation in Selected Southeast Asian Countries. Bangkok, Thailand, 9-11 December 2009. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report*, No. 928. Rome, FAO, 2010 or from Simon Funge-Smith or Cecile Brugere. ■