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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
<b>ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION</b>						
<b>Thirty-fifth Session</b>						
<b>Cebu, the Philippines, 11–13 May 2018</b>						
<b>Inter-sessional activities of APFIC</b>						

1. Since the last APFIC Session held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 12-14 February 2016, extensive activities have been carried to implement the APFIC's Programme of Work in the Coming Biennium endorsed by the last Session (APFIC/18/02-INFO 1) and as well as to align with the priority work identified by the recent APFIC Sessions and EXCOs.
2. The inter-sessional activities of APFIC have been carried primarily to respond to the needs of the members at regional and country levels, which have contributed to FAO's new Strategic Programmes, in particular Strategic Programme 2 "Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner" and Strategic Programme 5 "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises". The inter-sessional activities of APFIC are planned and implemented largely support to the FAO Regional initiative for blue growth in Asia-Pacific, FAO Asia and Pacific Regional One Health Programme and Regional Climate Change Programme.

#### **SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE COMMISSION'S ROLE**

3. The Secretary Interim participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Session Sub-Committee on Aquaculture of FAO Committee for Fisheries – (COFI-AQ), which was held in Rome, Italy, from 24 to 27 December 2017. The Session included the following major agenda items:
  - Report on FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department's efforts in implementing the recommendations of the past sessions of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;
  - Report on implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) provisions relevant to aquaculture and culture-based fisheries by the member countries;
  - Aquaculture, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/Agenda 2030 and FAO's common vision for sustainable food and agriculture ;
  - Report on the special event on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use (AMU) in aquaculture
  - Report from the Secretariat of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade: for information;
  - Report on aquatic genetic resources for aquaculture development
  - Report on extension for aquaculture development

- Special event on Aquaculture in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Blue Growth opportunities for SIDS in a changing climate context
  - Progress reporting on the implementation of the Technical Guidelines on aquaculture certification and the evaluation framework to assess conformity of aquaculture certification schemes with the guidelines.
4. Following the decision of the last Session and EXCO, the Secretariat organized the preparation of draft APFIC Strategy for 2019-2023.
  5. The 76<sup>th</sup> APFIC Executive Committee Meeting of APFIC was convened from 21-23 February 2017 in Manila, the Philippines.

#### **RESTRUCTURE TO FAO AISA-PACIFIC REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON BLUE GROWTH**

6. FAO started to implement the Regional initiative on sustainable intensification of aquaculture for blue growth in Asia-Pacific to contribute to blue economic growth. The implementation of the regional initiative was welcomed by the commission members at the 34<sup>th</sup> Session and 33<sup>rd</sup> FAO Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference. It was also strongly recommended that there is need to expand the scope and coverage of the regional initiative to focus more broadly on all aquatic resources related sectors and cover more countries in the implementation. Responding to the recommendations, the Secretariat restructured the original concept note of the regional initiative into a new programmatic framework, which is much more inclusive. It will be introduced under Agenda Item 7.

#### **ORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

7. The Secretariat/FAO has independently or jointly organized or supported more than 20 regional and international workshops and a major regional consultative workshop, notable for the participation of APFIC member countries and the excellent partnership with a range of regional fishery organizations, institutions and projects, including:
  - The 11th Asia Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum and Seafood Exhibition (11th AFAF), 3-7 August 2016 Bangkok, Thailand
  - Regional training workshop on aquaculture planning and management tools, 7-15 & 21-23 November 2016, Bangkok, Thailand
  - Global Conference on Climate Change Adaptation within Fisheries and Aquaculture – Sharing Experiences on the Ground, 8-10 August 2016, Bangkok, Thailand
  - Regional consultation on responsible production and use of feed and feed ingredients for sustainable growth of aquaculture in Asia-Pacific, 7-9 March 2017, Bangkok, Thailand
  - Regional workshop on promoting innovative integrated agro-aquaculture for blue growth, 12-17 June 2017, Kunming, China
  - Regional training workshop on Innovative rice-fish farming and climate resilient tilapia farming practices, 12-14 September 2017, Bangkok, Thailand
  - Regional evaluation and dissemination workshop on pilot application of aquaculture planning and management tools, 06-08 December 2017, Kamphaen Phet, Thailand
  - 7<sup>th</sup> APFIC Regional Consultative Forum, 7-9 May 2018, Cebu, the Philippines
  - Regional Consultation Stakeholder Workshop on Proposal for a Basin-wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy. Siem Reap, Cambodia. 11 October 2016. MRC/SEAFDEC
  - The First Regional Technical Consultation on Labor Aspects within the Fishing Industry in the ASEAN Region. 25 – 27 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. SEAFDEC.

- Regional Technical Consultation on a Regional Approach to the Implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. 7 – 9 June 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. SEAFDEC.
- Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia 7-10 November, 2016. SEAFDEC.
- 9<sup>th</sup> RPOA\_IUU Coordination Committee meeting. 22-24 November, 2016. Bangkok, Thailand. RPOA\_IUU
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). 27-28 February, 2017. Bangkok, Thailand.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Andaman Sea Sub Region meeting. 18-20 October, 2016. Bangkok Thailand. SEAFDEC.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region. 28 February - 2 March 2017. Bangkok, Thailand. SEAFDEC.
- Experts Workshop on Regional Approach for the Implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Human Rights- Based Approach and Gender-Equitability. 26-28 September 2017, Bangkok, Thailand. SEAFDEC.
- Regional consultation on Building Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region. 14-16 November 2017, Bangkok, Thailand.
- EAF-Nansen Programme Bay of Bengal regional planning meeting. 16-18 August 2017. Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The Regional Training on Port State Measures Implementation in Southeast Asia. 20-23 February, 2018. Bangkok, Thailand. SEAFDEC.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). 25-26 April, 2018. Bangkok, Thailand.

#### **COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL BODIES**

8. The APFIC Secretariat has actively pursued collaboration with a number of regional and international organizations, providing advisory inputs or acting as technical resource person to their major events, such as governing council meetings, program steering committee meeting, policy consultation and technical workshops and conferences. The regional and international organizations supported by the Secretariat during the inter-sessional period include ASEAN, NACA, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO, MRC, RPOA-IUU and AFS etc.

#### **DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES**

9. APFIC has provided direct technical assistance and policy advice to members in addressing country and regional level fisheries and aquaculture development issues. The APFIC Secretariat provided direct support to 5 national workshops/conferences in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The Secretariat provided technical supervision and backstopping to the implementation of 17 FAO TCP projects and 8 Trust fund supported national and regional projects, which included:
  - GCP/RAS/236/GFF “Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project” (BOBLME)
  - GCP/CPR/043/GFF “Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China's Dongting Lake Protected Areas”
  - GCP/CPR/045/GFF “Demonstration of Estuarine Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Protected Area Networking in China”
  - UNJP/PHI/066/UNJ “Restoring fisheries livelihoods in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao”

- GCP/SRL/062/EC “Poverty Reduction through Agricultural Development” (covering inland fisheries and aquaculture)
- GCP/SRL/071/CAN Capacity Enhancement of NARA for marine resource surveys and stock assessments in coastal waters of Sri Lanka: Phase II : Implementation of fisheries co-management plans
- GCP/DRK/009/ROK-Support Marine and Inland aquaculture in Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
- MTF/BGD/046/STF (STDF/BG/321) “Building Trade Capacity of Small-scale Shrimp and Prawn Farmers in Bangladesh – Investing in the Bottom of the Pyramid Approach”
- TCP/RAS/3511 “Piloting of aquaculture planning and management tools in selected ASEAN members”
- TCP/MON/3501 “Developing aquaculture for improved fish supply in Mongolia”
- TCP/BGD/3501 “Enhancing aquaculture production for food security and rural development through better seed and feed production and management with special focus on public-private partnership”
- TCP/CAM/3503 “Good community fish refuges management practices for food security in four provinces”
- TCP/INS/3501-03 “Integrated economic zone development based on blue economy in Lombok Island, Indonesia”
- TCP/INS/3502 “Decent Work for Food Security and Sustainable Rural Development (DW4FS&SRD): Support to selected coastal communities along the seaweed value chain”
- TCP/DRK/3506 “Strengthening pen and cage fish farming in Integrated Freshwater aquaculture system”
- TCP/MAL/3501-01 “Strengthening Aquaculture Biosecurity Capacity of Malaysia’s Department of Fisheries”
- TCP/MDV/3501-01 “Assistance in support of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Maldives”
- TCP/PAK/3502 “Promotion of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) in farming of carps and other potential finfish in Punjab and Balochistan Provinces”
- TCP/PHI/3502 “Building Capacities for a Climate Resilient Tilapia Farming in the Philippines”
- TCP/SRL/3502 “Improving seabass (*Lates calcarifer*) aquaculture in Sri Lanka through better feed and health management”
- TCP/SRL/3503-03 “Technical Assistance on human resource capacity building related to fish genetics and brood stock management in Sri Lanka”
- TCP/SRL/3503-04 “Development of strategy for aquaculture value chain development for improved income generation of small aquaculture and fish supply to consumers”
- TCP/SRL/3503-06 “Inter-laboratory proficiency test (ring test) for detection of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) by PCR in Sri Lanka”
- TCP/TIM/3502-04 “Feasibility study and pilot culture production of marine finfish cage culture (grouper, snapper) in Timor Leste”
- TCP/VIE/3502-04 “Assessment of causes and impacts of failed intensive shrimp farming on livelihoods of small farmers and piloting sustainable shrimp farming through organic farming supported with rehabilitation of destroyed mangroves in provinces of Soc Trang and Bac Lieu, Viet Nam”

## **NEW REGIONAL AND COUNTRY PROJECTS APPROVED THAT SUPPORT THE WORK AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION**

10. In order to support the priority work of the commission, over 20 new regional and country projects were formulated and approved for implementation with the support of the Secretariat:

- GCP/RAS/289/GEF: Enabling transboundary cooperation for sustainable management of the Indonesian Seas (ISLME)
- FMM/RAS/298/MUL (643756) - Strengthening capacities, policies and national action plans on aquatic AMR"
- TCP/RAS/3603: A FAO regional Technical Cooperation Program project was approved to support the scaling up of innovative integrated rice-aquaculture and climate resilient tilapia farming practices in five member countries.
- TCP/RAS/3603 "Support scaling up of innovative agro-aquaculture practices and climate resilient tilapia farming in Asia-Pacific"
- TCP/RAS/3621 A regional TCP project to support combating IUU and implementation of Port State Measure Agreement was formulated and approved for implementation.
- GCP/BGD/055/LDF: Community-based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh
- TCP/BGD/3601— Technical Support for Stock Assessment of Marine Resources in Bangladesh
- TCP/CMB/3607: Supporting the national technical capacity building for developing shrimp farming sector in Cambodia
- TCP/CMB/3606/C4: Support to sustainable fisheries including through a modern fisheries law
- GCP/INS/303/GFF Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Inland Fisheries Practices in Freshwater Ecosystems of High Conservation Value (IFish)
- TCP/INS/3606: Supporting local feed self-sufficiency for inland aquaculture in Indonesia
- TCP/INS/3603-01" Preparation of full TCP Project supporting local feed self-sufficiency for inland aquaculture development in Indonesia"
- GCP/LAO/022/LDF: Climate Change adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA) in Lao PDR
- TCP/MAL/3601/C1: Support to combatting IUU and implementing FAO PSMA in Malaysia
- TCP/MDV/3603 C3: Development of a National Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU) in Maldives
- TCP/MDV/3601-C1: Scaling-up of Climate-Smart Agriculture and climate-proofing of fisheries management for resilient food systems in Maldives
- TCP/MYA/3601 "Improvement of data collection on fisheries and aquaculture production: pilot system for the Yangon Region"
- TCP/MYA/3606 "Improvement of tilapia seed production and grow-out culture management in Myanmar"
- GCP/MYA/020/LDF: FishAdapt: Strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture –dependent livelihoods in Myanmar
- TCP/PHI/3606/C2: Supporting Aquaculture Resources Mapping and Development Planning Through ICT-based Solutions
- TCP/SRL/3602/C2 TCPF: Support in establishing a Technical Cooperation Project to combat IUU fishing in Sri Lanka
- TCP/SRL/3603 Capacity Building to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing)

- FAO/MDF/VIE: Promote of Scaling up of integrated mangrove-shrimp farming system in Vietnam

#### **MAJOR REGIONAL AND COUNTRY PROJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION THAT SUPPORT THE WORK AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION**

11. In order to support priority work identified by the commission, the Secretariat is working with the donors and concerned member countries in formulating a number of new regional and country projects. Significant progress has been made on the following projects:
  - GCP/RAS/269/GEF: Global Environment Facility project - the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem-Phase II is being formulated and waiting for GEF Secretariat approval to formulate the full project
  - GCP/CMB/037/LDF “Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Cambodia’s Coastal Fishery Dependent Communities waiting for GEF Secretariat approval to formulate the full project
  - TCP/RAS/3606/C3: Promoting sustainable use of the fishery resources of 1) The Gulf of Thailand and 2) Lower Mekong Basin through the ecosystem approach to fisheries – support to GEF 7 project development
  - GEF 6 Project for Myanmar: My-Coast: Ecosystem-Based Conservation of Myanmar’s Southern Coastal Zone is under development of full project.
  - TCP/CMB/3701/C1: Support to the formulation of EU funded Cambodia Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in the Fisheries Sector: Capture component (CaPFish Capture)

#### **APFIC PUBLICATIONS AND INTERNET-BASED INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

12. The Secretariat had continued to maintain the APFIC website <http://www.apfic.org> until the updating responsibility of the APFIC website was transferred to the FAO server <http://www.fao.org/apfic/en/> July 2016.
13. The Secretariat produced the following major publications on APFIC meeting events and technical subjects, which include:
  - Regional overview of aquaculture trends in the Asia-Pacific Region 2014 (FAORAP, 2016/26)
  - Report on the APFIC 6th Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (FAORAP, 2017)
  - Report on the 76th Executive Committee Meeting (FAORAP, 2017)
  - Sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region: Documentation of successful practices (FAO, 2016)
  - Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) , 12–14 February 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka (FAO, 2016)

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

14. The Commission is invited to review and comment on the inter-sessional activities carried out by the Secretariat.
15. The Commission is welcome to identify obvious gaps that should be highlighted for increasing efforts by the Secretariat and the member countries.