


ROLE OF SEAFDEC - DR CHUMNARN PONGSRI

 <p>Policy directions in fisheries, coastal and marine environment in the Bay of Bengal SEAFDEC on "Policy Work" Penang, 2 – 4 October 2012</p>	<p>Support to policy development by a "technical organization"</p> <p>To provide reliable technical advises while anticipating changes ahead in the regional "environment" is a way to influence and promote advances in policy development</p>
<p>Whether the oceans and inland water bodies will prove sufficiently supportable to provide an adequate supply of fish as food for future generations will depend in part on how well we do in managing the resource and our ability adapt to emerging changes</p>	<p>SEAFDEC – ASEAN/SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)</p> <p>Important policy documents to guide national and regional decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASEAN/SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action, on fisheries and food security 2011 - ASEAN Community by 2015 and related blueprints on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Economic Community * Socio-Cultural Community * Political-Security Community
<p>Challenge: To reach, involve people, incorporate experiences and address needs and actions to be taken at all levels; local, provincial, national, sub-regional and regional levels</p> <p>An intergovernmental body is not well-placed to do field projects and a fisheries body seldom have a very broad range of thematic expertise is</p> <p>The key is to build strategic partnerships with organizations and entities that have the advantage, knowledge and capacity, including local languages</p>	<p>Themes: Just addressing "fisheries" is not enough to provide background to efforts to influence policy development. Other examples include:</p> <p>Changing "environments", habitat and fisheries management (EAF), illegal and destructive fishing, social-wellbeing, alternative livelihood, migratory workers, working conditions, adaptive management, economic development and trade</p> <p>Political sensitivity and timing!!</p>
<p>Need to address trans-boundary issues and opportunities</p> <p>This implies a need promote dialogue and agreements in sub-regions. SEAFDEC trans-boundary sub-regions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andaman Sea - Gulf of Thailand - South China Sea - Sulu-Sulawesi Seas - Arafura Timor Seas, and - The Mekong River Basin <p>Of relevance to the Bay of Bengal is the work SEAFDEC is doing in cooperation with BOBLME in the Andaman Sea</p>	<p>The Andaman Sea is a globally important sub-region with productive fisheries and unique habitats</p> <p>To facilitate cooperation among countries recent focus has been given to two sub-regions of the Andaman Sea, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Andaman Sea (from Phuket up north); Myanmar and Thailand - Southern Andaman Sea (from Phuket down south); Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand

Coastal villages and habitats are exposed to "modern" development

- In the process traditional knowledge on how to "live with the sea" and how to manage and maintain coastal habitats is rapidly being lost.
- Similar processes of marginalisation of inland fishing communities, encroachment into wetlands and floodplains need to be considered.
- Do we do enough to secure their "rights" in policy support??

Policy development

- There is an obvious need to develop more enlightened policies on how much should be fished, where and when, as well as for more effective application of such policies, both nationally and internationally. At present we have little capability to forecast how environmental changes affect recruitment, and limited knowledge of how species interact with one another in the ecosystem or in the fishery

Fisheries in National Policies and Action Plans

- Ensure that fisheries and habitat aspects are incorporated in the national action plans on responses to poverty alleviation, climate change, economic development.
- Integrate poverty alleviation and climate change into fisheries policy framework
- Involve all levels, national, province and local, in the process of planning and policy formulation for management, conservation and rehabilitation of habitats and fisheries resources as well as in terms of policy formulation on the use and management of natural and human resources (ASCC D.10.40)

Cooperation

Cooperation among institutions, countries and people within countries and across national boundaries is crucial to reverse present trends of declining resources, threatened habitats affecting livelihood options for coastal and inland communities

Challenge: to build up political support and political will

Agreements Sub-regional, bi-and trilateral

- There is an expressed willingness to develop agreements and joint approaches for joint action to ensure sustainable fisheries and habitat management while providing opportunities for social well-being, but.....
- There is a need to ensure continuity in representation from countries in dialogue meetings to avoid "set-backs" in the development of agreements and local policy support.

