

Keynote Address by
Ambassador Djauhari Oratmangun
Special Advisor on Strategic Issues
to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
At the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on
Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
19-21 April 2016
Intercontinental Bali Resort, Bali, Indonesia

*Your Excellency Ambassador Francisco Fontan Pardo,
Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN,*

*Your Excellency Ambassador Arif Havas Oegroseno,
Deputy Minister for Maritime Sovereignty, Indonesian
Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs*

*Your Excellency Isilio Coelho, Director General for
Bilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-
Leste*

*Ms. Sarah Riedel, Senior Political and Economic Officer,
United States Mission to ASEAN,*

Distinguished Delegates, Experts and Speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Bali and to this ARF Workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. I wish to extend Indonesia's appreciation to the United States and Timor-Leste for graciously hosting with Indonesia this important meeting.

I would also like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Government and people of Afghanistan for the recent earthquake and bombings. My sympathy also goes to the Governments and people of Bangladesh, Ecuador, India, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan for the loss of many lives as the cause of the recent earthquakes. Words cannot begin to express the sadness the families of the victims are feeling right now and I can assure you that ASEAN is ready to do whatever we can to help you through this difficult time.

Distinguished Delegates,

This is the situation, world fish consumption keeps rising every year. To meet this demand annually, some 90 million tons of fish have to be caught worldwide. As world population keeps growing, along with regional and international trade, we can expect the demand for fish to increase exponentially in the future.

To meet that growing demand, the fishery industries have to enlarge their production. One of the unwanted consequences of this effort is the upsurge of overfishing and even illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing). According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, more than half of the major marine fish stocks or species were fully exploited, almost 20 per cent were overexploited, and six per cent were depleted. The situation gets worse every year and IUU Fishing is one of the major contributors to this problem. Some scientists suggest that if current rates of depletion persist, most large predatory fish stocks will be depleted

by 2048. And it would be difficult for fishermen here in this bay to serve fresh grilled fish.

Distinguished Delegates,

As if that were not detrimental enough, we still have to deal with the social and economic as well as the political and security impact of IUU Fishing.

The economies of developing countries, which comprise about 79 percent of the international community, have suffered greatly as a result of IUU Fishing. In Indonesia alone, IUU Fishing inflicts a loss of around USD 20 billion every year. That is a massive loss that we cannot afford.

It is not unusual for an IUU Fishing operation to be carried out by an organized criminal group. In fact, criminal organizations with transnational reach are active in the illegal harvesting and smuggling of high value products like abalone, sturgeon, and also in the trafficking of caviar in places like the Caspian Sea and the capes of South Africa.

There is also a correlation between IUU Fishing and other forms of transnational organized crime, including drug smuggling. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime in 2011 suggested that from 2007 to 2010, some 20 per cent of cocaine seizures involved fishing vessels, accounting for nearly half of the cocaine seized at sea. There is also anecdotal evidence that some drug smugglers are shifting to IUU Fishing—a business deemed by some criminals to be more lucrative and less dangerous.

There is also a link between IUU Fishing and other forms of transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons to serve as forced labor on fishing boats. In the course of this criminal practice, women and children are exploited. De facto slavery in the fishing industry occurs across the world's oceans, but is especially prevalent off the coasts of West Africa and Southeast Asia. A nexus between IUU Fishing and maritime piracy has been observed in the well-documented incidences of piracy in or near Somali waters. To some extent piracy has developed from illegal fishing activities.

Unfortunately the obvious linkage between IUU Fishing and transnational organized crime is yet to be robustly addressed.

Distinguished Participants,

Fisheries management is dealt with in various international and regional instruments and mechanisms, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the 2001 International Plan of Action (IPOA), and in various Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and in ASEAN. And yet overfishing and IUU Fishing are still rampant. Countries are therefore called upon to be more committed and to act collectively to tackle this concern.

Obviously the existing international and regional mechanisms for dealing with overfishing and IUU Fishing are not sufficient. We need to develop better strategies for monitoring, controlling, surveillance and law enforcement in the fisheries sector. And we need to

maximize the existing regional mechanisms, including ARF and other ASEAN mechanisms for this purpose.

That is why we are gathered here today: to gain a deeper understanding of the reach and complexity of IUU Fishing that goes beyond a fisheries management approach, and that is significantly interconnected with transnational organized crime.

This workshop is a follow-up to the ARF Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management held in Honolulu last month, where many of us gained useful insights on fisheries management and ways of battling IUU Fishing.

In this workshop we will endeavor to assess basic and common regional needs, to explore the existing and the potential forms of cooperation of all ARF Participants dealing with IUU Fishing, and to highlight the transnational nature of this issue as well as its linkages with transnational organized crime.

In this regard, Indonesia, the United States, and Timor-Leste have been working closely together to formulate the draft ARF Statement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU

Fishing that will be submitted for adoption by the ARF Ministers.

It is my fervent hope that all of us can work together on this document as a demonstration of our commitment to coming to grips with IUU Fishing. I invite all of you to take part and contribute actively to the workshop; to exchange views, best practices and lessons learned; and to explore ways of addressing the issues related to IUU Fishing.

Thus we will be taking one more step toward overcoming the challenge of this threat to our common security. I also look forward to your support for its adoption in the forthcoming 23rd ARF Ministerial Meeting.

I wish you all a successful and fruitful dialogue on this very important issue.

Thank you.

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