

**Concept Paper
ASEAN Regional Forum**

Sustainable Fisheries Management and Food Security in Southeast Asia

Background

Fisheries are an important resource that requires strong regional and international commitment to sustainably manage. Approximately twelve percent of the world's population relies upon fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihood, while over half of the world's people get a significant source of their animal protein from fish and seafood. In Southeast Asia, the proportion of people engaged in and dependent upon this sector for their livelihood, and as well as food and nutritional security is even higher. Southeast Asia's fisheries are a vast and valuable resource, sustainable management of which is imperative to ensure the food, economic, social, and environmental security of each country in the region, as well as the region as a whole.

There are many economic incentives that undercut the sustainable management of fisheries resources. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU) and the potential for exploitation of laborers within the fisheries sector are two examples.

Sustainable management of Southeast Asia's fisheries – both nearshore and highly migratory fish stocks – requires effective domestic policies and legislation to manage resources within each States' exclusive economic zone, as well as regional cooperation and commitment to create regional strategies and ensure effective enforcement.

Objective

To initiate a dialogue among ASEAN members and encourage greater regional cooperation on improving food security through sustainably managing fisheries.

Proposal

The United States proposes to hold a workshop on opportunities for regional cooperation to ensure food security in the ASEAN region through sustainably managing fisheries. This two-day workshop will be held in early 2018, in collaboration with the Asia Foundation and relevant Asian institutions. We anticipate approximately 40 participants as described below to discuss the following topic:

- A Regional Assessment of Fisheries Management: How can countries cooperate and exchange best practices to better ensure food security in Southeast Asia?

Co-Chair

The United States is seeking an ASEAN co-chair(s).

Participants

Representatives from the ARF Participants, as well as key environmental institutes, think tanks and other entities from throughout Southeast Asia would be invited to participate in this workshop.

Date and Venue

The proposed Workshop on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Food Security in Southeast Asia would be held in January or February 2018.

Administrative Arrangements

The co-chairs would share the administrative costs of the workshop, including the venue, meeting preparations, travel costs for expert presenters, and working dinners and lunches. International travel, accommodations, and other related cost necessary for workshop participation would be borne by the respective participants.

Please direct comments or questions on this proposal to:

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