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EXPERT MEETING ON DEEP-SEA FISHING AND ITS IMPACT TO ECOSYSTEM

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PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

Keywords: deep-sea fishery exploration, fishery management, fishing, vulnerable marine ecosystem

1) Background

SEAFDEC has supported exploration of fishery/living resources in the deep-sea waters of the Southeast Asia through various programs in close collaboration with its Member Countries. The overall aims of this program are: to explore ways to collect the information on the deep-sea fishery resources in the Southeast Asian waters including the support on actual survey using SEAFDEC's research vessels or national research vessels; to encourage SEAFDEC's Member Countries to explore deep-sea fishery resources; and to build human resources capacity on deep-sea fishery resources exploration.

As far as ecosystem-based approach for fisheries management is international concerns, there is a need to know the impact of fishing to deep-sea ecosystem. This expert meeting provide opportunity to scientists from SEAFDEC's Member Countries for better understanding of knowledge on impact of fishing on deep-sea ecosystem (particularly on the seabed) and also to share their experience related to deep-sea fishery resources exploration.

The three-day Expert Meeting will be organized as the first initiative of the region to gather deep-sea scientist and fishery researchers to discuss on the topic focusing on the impact of fishing on the sea-bottom ecosystem considering *Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems* of the ocean. In addition, this Meeting will also provide a platform for upcoming regional important event "Regional Training Workshop on Research Methodologies for Study on Impact of Fishing on Deep-sea Ecosystem", scheduled during 16-20 October 2010 at Brunei Darussalam.

2) Objectives

- 1.1 Provide knowledge and better understanding of deep-sea ecosystem
- 1.2 Review and update regional/national initiatives related to deep-sea fishery resources exploration in the Southeast Asian Region¹

¹ In following-up to the previous regional events:

- Regional Workshop on the Standard Operating Procedure and Development/Improvement of Sampling Gears for Deep-sea Resource Exploration organized by TD during 26-28 May 2009; and
- Regional Training/Workshop on Identification of Deep-sea Fishes organized by TD during 18-22 January 2010.

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1.3 Share experience and exchange view on the study on impact of fishing on deep-sea ecosystem among the experts

1.4 Identify topics for study on the impact of fishing on the deep-sea ecosystem.

3) Expected Outputs

2.1 A regional review on the initiatives activity/program related to the study on impact of fishing to deep-sea ecosystem.

2.2 Set of recommendations for regional study on impact of fishing on deep-sea ecosystem

2.3 Set of suggestion for the topics to be include in the upcoming training/workshop on the study on impact of fishing on deep-sea ecosystem

4) Time and Venue:

The proposed meeting is tentatively scheduled for the period of 31 August – 2 September 2010 at Jasmine City Hotel, Bangkok

5) Participants:

Participants of the Meeting include international/regional experts and scientist/researchers from SEAFDEC Member Countries, who has involved on issue related to deep-sea fishery resources exploration, particularly on impact of deep-sea fishing on the ecosystem.

6) Budget Supporters:

The program is initially supported by the Japanese Trust Fund Program through SEAFDEC. The participant will be provided with SEAFDEC/TD' standard; including international economy air-ticket, DSA, and accommodation.

7) Tentative program:

Day-One:

- Introduction and Opening
- Review of regional/national initiatives related to deep-sea fishery/living resources exploration and the study on impact of fishing to deep-sea ecosystem

Day-Two:

- Lesson learn from international initiatives related to deep-sea fishery/living resources exploration and the study on impact of fishing to deep-sea ecosystem
- Discussion on topics for study on the impact of fishing on deep-sea ecosystem

Day-Three:

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- Recommendation on the program planning for the Regional Training Workshop on the Study of the Impact from Fishing on Ecosystem
- Brainstorming on the Regional Plan of Action on the Deep Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in the South East Asian Region (way forward).
- Conclusion and Closing

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