

		<b>The Regional Training Program on Cetacean Information Gathering and Research Methodology on Cetacean Stock Assessment</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> November 2010, Chachoengsao Province, Thailand	01-2
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## Provisional Prospectus

### I. Introduction

In 2008, SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) initiated a program on regional cetacean research aiming to collect scientific information on the distribution and composition of cetacean species in the Southeast Asian waters as well as to assess the interaction and the degree of the impact of the cetaceans to the fishery resources and habitats. This program of activity was then implemented under project entitled “Cetacean research in Southeast Asian Waters: Cetacean Sighting Program” with the financial support by Japanese Trust Fund. The main objectives of this program are to:

- Develop inventory of cetacean species found in the Southeast Asia Waters;
- Gather information of the accidentally death of cetacean on the coastal areas of the region;
- Enhance human resources capacity on the cetacean research work in the region;
- Disseminate the information of Cetacean Species distributed in relation to their habitat/coastal ecosystem in the Southeast Asia waters; and
- Study interaction of the (large) cetacean to the coastal marine ecosystem/habitat

For better understanding the research work on cetacean, TD primarily provided the in-house training on the cetacean research and shipboard training/survey on cetacean sighting by MV SEAFDEC2, held during 21-30 November 2008 at TD. During the course of training, two (2) resource persons from Fisheries Research Agencies of Japan provided guide and lessons to the TD staff concerned for further effective implementation of the project activity. Subsequently, TD has conducted the actual cetacean sighting program by using MV SEAFDEC 2 and other research vessels in collaboration with the member countries, such as MV DA-BFAR of the Philippines, RV Chulabhorn of DOF-Thailand.

In 2009, SEAFDEC/TD organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Workshop on Information Gathering and Cetacean Research in the Southeast Asian Waters during 30-31 July 2009 at TD. The aim of the Workshop was to understand current status of cetacean research works conducting in the region as well as to provide fora to the member countries and researchers in the region to share experiences and exchange view on the issue related to cetacean research. Major recommendations resulted from the Workshop is on the need for enhancing human resources capacities in the field study by focusing on the methodologies for assessment of cetacean stock size.

In this connection, TD plans to organize the Regional Training Program on Cetacean Information Gathering and Research Methodology on Cetacean Stock Assessment with the main objective to enhance/build human resources capacities on the actual cetacean sighting and its stock assessment methodology as well as to gather updates research work related to study on stock of cetacean in the region.

## II. Objectives of the Training

- To develop the human resource capacities for the member countries on cetacean stock assessment methodology through the practical training activities and sharing information among participants/researchers;
- To update information on cetacean stock studies conducted in the region; and
- To obtain suggestion on future following-up activity on the cetacean research for the region.

## III. Expected Outputs

- A Practical handbook on cetacean stock assessment methodology
- Up-to-date on the study on cetacean stock in the region
- A set of recommendation for future activity to be implemented by the project as well as by the national initiatives.

## IV. Date and Venue:

The Regional Training will be organized in Baan Plaloma Resort, Bang Pakong Chachoengsao Province, Thailand, tentatively from 23-25 November 2010.

## V. Participants:

It is envisaged that the participants for the regional training will be the following:

- Resource persons from: Fishery Research Agency – Japan; Department of Fisheries – Thailand; Department of Marine and Coastal Resources; TD, etc.
- Researchers working on cetacean research from the member countries.

## VI. Agenda and Arrangement of the Training

Agenda	Activity
<b>Day-One</b>	
Opening and Introduction	<i>Background and objectives of the program/training; introduction of the training program/activity; introduction of the resource persons; will be provided.</i>
Experience and lessons learned from the national/regional initiatives related to cetacean research with particular focus on stock assessment study/work in the Southeast Asian Region	<i>Countries/Initiatives presentation at the plenary based on their existing programs related to cetacean research/study, in particular to the methodology for stock assessment of the cetacean.</i>
Research methodology for cetacean stock assessment	<i>- Science-based research methodology by researchers from FRA-Japan and DMCR-Thailand. It includes “Case study of the</i>

	<p><i>stock assessment of the cetacean based on experiences from Japan and Thailand (in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea”).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The use of photography techniques for the cetacean species identification by Mr. Somchai</i></li> <li>- <i>Forensic identification for dolphin and whale by Dr. Kongkiet</i></li> <li>- <i>Etc.</i></li> </ul>
Orientation of the training program on cetacean actual sighting survey	<i>Explanation on the program of activity for the training program to be conducted onboard for actual sighting survey</i>
<b>Day-Two</b>	
Onboard actual sighting survey (one-day trip)	<i>All resource persons and participants embark the survey vessel. Program of activity including dolphin sighting (filling record-sheet, photo techniques, etc.)</i>
<b>Day-Three</b>	
Wrap-up discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Discussion on actual sighting survey conducted onboard</i></li> <li>- <i>Summary of the major outputs from the Meeting</i></li> </ul>
Conclusion and Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Follow-up actions</i></li> <li>- <i>Conclusion and recommendation</i></li> </ul>

## VII. Timetable

Time	Activities
<b>First Day</b>	
07:00	Leave SEAFDEC/TD for Baan Plaloma Resort, Chachoengsao
08:30-09:00	Check in and refreshment
09:00-09:15	Registration
09:15-09:30	Opening by SEAFDEC Secretary General
09:30-09:45	Introduction to the Regional Training Program on Cetacean Information Gathering and Research Methodology for Cetacean Stock Assessment Dr. Worawit W.
09:45-10:15	Introduction to cetaceans and interaction to fisheries Mr.Supot C.
10:15-10:30	Group photo and coffee break
10:30-10:45	Update information on cetaceans distribution in South East Asian and its interaction to fisheries Mr. Sayan P.
10:45-11:00	National initiative related to cetacean stock assessment
11:00-11:15	○ Cambodia
11:15-11:30	○ Indonesia
	○ Malaysia

11:30-11:45	○ Philippines
11:45-12:00	○ Thailand
12:15-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:30	Methodology for cetacean stock assessment “Abundance estimation of cetaceans from sighting data “ Dr. Hideyoshi Yoshida
14:30-15:15	Photo Identification method in cetaceans research Mr.Somchai M.
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:00	Biodiversity of Marine Mammal in Thailand (Case study in Thailand) Dr.Kongkiat K.
16:00-16:30	Forensic Identification for Dolphin and Whale Dr.Wansuk S.
16:30-16:45	The Link Between Cetacean Abundance and Environmental Feature /Mr. Sukchai A.
16:45-17:15	Study on Irrawaddy Dolphins in the Inner Gulf of Thailand (Dr.Saisunee)
18:00-20:00	Welcome reception
<b>Second day</b>	
08:30-16:00	Field Trip - Onboard the cetaceans watching boat to Bang Prakong estuary - Cetacean observation - Data collection - Photographic Lunch on board - Observation for ecotourism with cetacean ( Mr. Surasak Thongsugdee)
<b>Third day</b>	
09:30-10:00	Special session - Ecotourism - Alternative livelihood for local fisheries / villages (Mr. Kreing Mahasiri)
10:00-12:00	Group Presentation and discussion on the cetacean observation training
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:00	Recommendations for future follow up action by SEAFDEC
14:00-14:15	Closing by SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary General

