



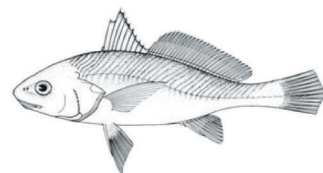
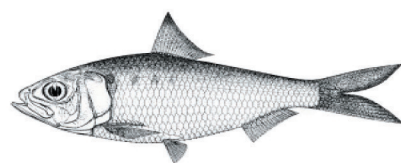
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Seventy-sixth Session

Manila, the Philippines, 21–23 February 2017



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**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report adopted at the Seventy-sixth Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission.

This document presents the final report of the Seventy-sixth Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) that was held in Manila, the Philippines, from 21 to 23 February 2017. The APFIC Executive Committee at its Seventy-sixth Session comprised the Philippines (Chair), Thailand (Vice-Chair), Viet Nam and the Republic of Korea (Members), Sri Lanka (former Chair) and the Secretary of the Commission (as an ex officio Member).

The Executive Committee welcomed the draft updated regional overview on the status and trends of aquaculture and capture fisheries in Asia and the Pacific region and updates on monitoring frameworks on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

The Executive Committee complimented APFIC on the wide range of activities implemented with partners under the FAO/APFIC Regional Initiative on Blue Growth and the great achievements to date. It recommended that APFIC's related work should be brought to the attention of the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) through the inclusion of an APRC agenda item on building climate resilience of fisheries and aquaculture for blue growth in Asia and the Pacific region.

The Executive Committee underscored the importance of the small-scale fisheries related value chains in the region and welcomed continued support for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the national and regional levels.

The Executive Committee agreed that IUU fishing was a significant problem in the APFIC region and for APFIC member countries and that support from APFIC FAO, including a proposed regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), was appropriate.

The Executive Committee welcomed the continued efforts related to implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture and commended the Secretariat for its efforts in documenting climate change impacts and vulnerabilities as well as adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation priorities within the sector.

The Executive Committee reviewed the budget and expenses of the Commission and recommended that core allocation be sustained and suggested cost reduction strategies and means of encouraging greater contributions of in-kind support to the work of the Commission.

The Executive Committee discussed the preparations for the APFIC Seventh Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission to be held in the Philippines in May 2018. The Executive Committee agreed that the Seventy-seventh Session of the Executive Committee would be convened in Thailand in February 2019, subject to confirmation by the Royal Thai Government.

Note: The material in the appendixes is reproduced as submitted.

Distribution:

Participants of the Session

Members of the Commission

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

FAO Regional Fishery Officers

RSN Secretariat

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Opening of the Session	1
Adoption of the agenda	2
Outcomes of the main recommendations of the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session and items for the attention of the Thirty-fourth Asia-Pacific Regional Conference	2
APFIC inter-sessional activities – A summary	2
APFIC inter-sessional activities – Improving monitoring of trends and issues	3
APFIC inter-sessional activities – Supporting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication	3
APFIC inter-sessional activities – FAO actions supporting member countries to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and implement the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)	4
APFIC inter-sessional activities – Fisheries management and promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	4
APFIC inter-sessional activities – Building resilience to climate change	5
APFIC inter-sessional activities – Introduction to FAO Regional Initiative for Blue Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region	5
APFIC work plan for 2017-2018	6
Road map to develop the 2018–2023 APFIC Strategic Plan	6
APFIC budget and administrative matters	7
Preparation for the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Thirty-fifth Session of APFIC	7
Other matters	8
Date and place of the Seventy-seventh Session of the APFIC Executive Committee	8
Adoption of the report	8

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Opening address: Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	9
Appendix 2 – Welcome address: Outgoing Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	10
Appendix 3 – Welcome address: Vice-chair of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	12
Appendix 4 – Welcome remarks: FAO representative in the Philippines	14
Appendix 5 – Agenda of the Seventy-sixth Executive Committee Meeting	16
Appendix 6 – List of documents	18
Appendix 7 – List of participants	20
Appendix 8 – Draft agenda of the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting	23
Appendix 9 – Revised schedule of the Thirty-fifth Session of APFIC	26
Appendix 10 – Introduction to the World Fisheries University (WFU) initiative by the Republic of Korea	28

Opening of the Session

1. The Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) convened its Seventy-sixth Session at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Manila, the Philippines, from 21 to 23 February 2017, hosted by the Government of the Philippines.
2. The Seventy-sixth Session was opened by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Wilfredo M. Cruz, Director of Regional Office No. 3 of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Agriculture, Government of the Philippines. He recalled how APFIC was born during a meeting held in the Philippines in 1948 and, therefore, how the Government of the Philippines is delighted to host this and up-coming APFIC meetings. He then welcomed all the delegates of the Executive Committee and made special mention of the FAO Representative, José Luis Fernández, the Secretary of APFIC, and the important work of FAO and APFIC in the region and the task of guiding APFIC's work in 2017-2018.
3. W.M.M.R. Adikari, Secretary of Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka, the outgoing Chair country of the 75th APFIC Executive Committee commended APFIC on its valuable work undertaken, including in her own country, during the inter-sessional period in responding to the needs of the member countries mainly through the staging of several international workshops and conferences, providing direct assistance and advice to member countries through technical supervision for the implementation of numerous projects, and by dissemination of information through several important publications.
4. Chumnarn Pongsri, Director of Foreign Affairs Division of Department of Fisheries of Thailand, the Vice-Chair Country of the Seventy-sixth APFIC Executive Committee, noted the charge placed on the sector to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 and the Sustainable Development Goal 14, the necessity of linking the work of APFIC to these targets and the efforts of Thailand to achieve sustainable fisheries and aquaculture nationally and throughout the ASEAN Community.
5. José Luis Fernández, FAO Representative in the Philippines delivered opening/welcome remarks at the opening session, welcomed the participants and noted the particular importance of fisheries and aquaculture in the region and globally. He underscored the importance of APFIC in supporting its Members in their efforts to sustainably manage fisheries resources and the sustainable intensification of aquaculture. He also noted that the deliberations of the Executive Committee have provided key conclusions, recommendations and advice for the Secretariat and the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on priority areas of work for the coming years.
6. The opening/welcome remarks are included as Appendix 1, Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4, respectively.
7. The opening session of the Executive Committee was chaired by the Interim APFIC Secretary, Miao Weimin, who welcomed the Members of the Executive Committee and reviewed the functions of the Executive Committee noted that it is an advisory body whose main function is to assist in the work of the Commission and the Secretariat during the inter-sessional period. The specific functions of the Executive Committee are principally to advise on the biennial work programme, both ongoing and proposed, and to review the administrative and budgetary affairs of the Commission.
8. The Executive Committee was requested to develop recommendations and suggestions for the Commission and, more specifically, advise the Secretariat how it might achieve the recommended outcomes. The Interim APFIC Secretary informed the Executive Committee that the report of the Seventy-sixth Session would confine itself mainly to the main conclusions and recommendations emerging from the deliberations of the Executive Committee. Additional details are included where this is important in advising the Secretariat on options or lists of items to be considered or acted upon.

Adoption of the agenda

9. The delegate of the Republic of Korea proposed to include an introduction on the progress of the joint initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea and FAO in setting up a World Fisheries University. The proposal was accepted.
10. The Executive Committee adopted the Agenda as shown in Appendix 5.
11. The meeting documents (working documents and information documents) provided to the Committee are listed in Appendix 6.
12. The Chairperson invited all the meeting participants to introduce themselves. The list of participants is presented in Appendix 7.

Outcomes of the main recommendations of the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session and items for the attention of the Thirty-fourth Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

13. The Executive Committee was informed of the recommendations of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Commission and the Sixth Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) by the Secretary based on Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/02.
14. The Executive Committee discussed and endorsed the recommendations that had been made during the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session and the RCFM.
15. The Executive Committee noted a need for ongoing efforts by the sector to promote the importance of fisheries and aquaculture through outreach and advocacy.
16. The Executive Committee requested clarification regarding follow-up with respect to the survey of fish aggregating devices (FAD) and artificial reefs and stressed that this remains an important area of work for member countries.
17. The Executive Committee was asked to consider how the recommendations of the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session can be brought to the attention of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC). The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a working paper for submission to the FAO APRC based on the findings and priority recommendations of the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session and the Sixth RCFM.

APFIC inter-sessional activities – A summary

18. The Secretariat introduced Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/03 “Summary of the inter-sessional activities” and invited the Executive Committee to comment on it.
19. The Executive Committee expressed appreciation of the work of the Secretariat, which covered a broad range of activities and was a good reflection of the heterogeneous needs of the fisheries and aquaculture sector at the regional and country levels. The Executive Committee encouraged APFIC to work further to meet the full expectations of the Members.
20. Given the broad scope of APFIC activities carried out in the past, the Executive Committee enquired how FAO country representative offices define the future work priorities for individual countries. In response, the Secretariat and the FAO Representation in the Philippines informed the Executive Committee that APFIC’s priority setting is driven by the demands of its Members. The FAO

Country Programme Framework (CPF) is the main process for member governments and FAO to jointly identify priorities for FAO's work in supporting the member countries and the representation of country fisheries and aquaculture departments in this process is encouraged. The CPF are currently under revision in many countries.

21. The Executive Committee recognized FAO's comparative advantage and looked forward to expanded work with FAO under the CPF.

22. The Executive Committee inquired how the outputs and outcomes of various FAO-supported workshops/projects can be widely shared and scaled up to benefit all the Members. The Executive Committee also suggested that FAO's role in each country, particularly in the area of fisheries, can be strengthened further.

23. The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that the outputs and outcomes of FAO's country and regional activities are disseminated and scaled up through different means, which include regional workshops incorporated into regional projects working at the country level, knowledge products generated from the individual activities and specially organized regional workshops or regional projects for sharing of knowledge and experiences and scaling up of successful fishing and farming practices and technologies. The APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) is another important platform for sharing knowledge and successes.

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Improving monitoring of trends and issues

24. The Executive Committee discussed ongoing efforts to improve monitoring of trends and issues in fisheries and aquaculture of the Commission based on Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/04 and Information Papers APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 05a, APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 05b and APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 06.

25. The Executive Committee welcomed the updated regional overview on status and trends of aquaculture and capture fisheries in Asia and the Pacific region. The Committee recommended the analysis and distribution of regional consolidated and country-level responses to the 2015 FAO questionnaire on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) to inform APFIC member countries and their respective FAO country offices about advances in fisheries management in the APFIC countries and to assist countries in their reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. The Committee recognized the complexity of estimating and monitoring Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and suggested that APFIC support the development of technical guidelines on methodologies for estimating the effects of IUU fishing for the APFIC region.

27. The need for guidance on the monitoring the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) was noted, including guidance on defining small-scale fisheries within each country, and support to national-level efforts to achieve and report on the Sustainable Development Goal Target 14b, relating specifically to small-scale fisheries, was welcomed.

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Supporting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication

28. The Executive Committee reviewed the ongoing and planned inter-sessional activities related to the development and implementation of the SSF Guidelines based on Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/05 and Information Papers APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 07 and APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 08.

29. The Executive Committee underscored the importance of the small-scale fisheries related value chains in the region and welcomed continued support for the implementation of the voluntary guidelines at the national and regional levels. The Committee requested mechanisms enabling the sharing of experiences of implementing the voluntary guidelines, including a consultative workshop on the use of information communications technology in support of the small-scale fisheries sector.

30. The Executive Committee noted the guiding recommendations of the two regional consultation workshops on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, namely the South Asia region workshop held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23 to 26 November 2015 and the Southeast Asia region workshop held in Bali from 24 to 27 August 2017.

APFIC inter-sessional activities – FAO actions supporting member countries to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and implement the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

31. The Executive Committee reviewed the planned activities related to supporting member countries in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and implementing the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), including those at global, regional and national level presented by the Secretary in Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/11.

32. The Executive Committee agreed that IUU fishing was a significant problem in the APFIC region and for APFIC member countries and that support from APFIC FAO was appropriate. They noted that there were many other partners engaged in this work and coordination would be essential.

33. The Executive Committee supported the proposed FAO regional project as an important part of the efforts to combat IUU. The proposed project outputs included enhanced regional cooperation in support of addressing IUU and PSMA implementation and strengthened national capacity for the implementation of the International Plan of Action (IPOA)-IUU and PSMA.

34. The Executive Committee noted that work to combat IUU and implement the PSMA would require multidisciplinary and cross-cutting approaches including sectors outside of fisheries. The importance of political leadership and ownership was stressed.

35. The Executive Committee noted the importance of sharing experiences among countries in the region that are at different levels of planning and implementation.

36. The importance of and difficulties in ensuring the engagement of the small-scale fisheries sector was stressed. It was also noted that in many countries, the terms “small-scale” and “large-scale” are defined differently.

37. The Executive Committee noted that national legal frameworks and strong governance were also required for the implementation of the IPOA-IUU and the PSMA. The Executive Committee suggested that wherever possible domestic IUU and inland IUU fishing issues should be considered during discussions on IUU.

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Fisheries management and promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

38. The Executive Committee welcomed the report by the Secretariat on progress supporting member countries and partners implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) (APFIC:EXCO/17/07). This included the development of the new Web site for sharing training materials and the FAO guidelines on legislating for EAFM.

39. The Executive Committee noted the importance of integrating EAFM approaches into forthcoming FAO projects and programmes and recognized the potential for the approach in planning and implementing climate change adaptations for the sector.

40. The Executive Committee noted the actions taken by member countries in support of implementing the EAFM approach.

41. The Executive Committee enquired as to the progress of developing the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) and noted the FAO technical guidelines on EAA and the forthcoming publication on EAA indicators. The Executive Committee proposed that EAA training modules be developed to support the implementation of the EAA.

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Building resilience to climate change

42. The Executive Committee reviewed the ongoing and planned activities relating to climate change, fisheries and aquaculture based on Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/08.

43. The Executive Committee commended the Secretariat for its efforts in documenting climate change impacts and vulnerabilities as well as adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation priorities within the sector. The need to ensure representation of the sector in national climate change strategies and implementation plans was underscored and the Executive Committee welcomed the continued support of the FAO in this area.

44. The Executive Committee welcomed the draft FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Climate Change Strategy (2017–2020) and requested a follow-up APFIC/FAO regional consultative workshop entitled “Implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture: challenges for adaptation and mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Region”. The purposes of this would be twofold: to provide information on national and regional actions as well as technological and methodological advances; and to identify capacity gaps and other constraints of the APFIC member countries in coping effectively with climate change challenges and maintaining the sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the region.

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Introduction to FAO Regional Initiative for Blue Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region

45. The Secretariat introduced the FAO regional initiative for blue growth in the Asia-Pacific region to the Executive Committee with reference to Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/09. The focus was on its implementation and future prospects.

46. The Executive Committee complimented FAO on the wide range of activities implemented under the regional initiative and the achievements to date. The Executive Committee sought clarification on the relationship between the regional initiative and other FAO implementation mechanisms.

47. Responding to the comment from the Executive Committee, the Secretariat explained the background of the regional initiative and further explained its significance in terms of implementing, monitoring and reporting on FAO’s Strategic Framework.

48. The Executive Committee recognized the role of the regional initiative in advocating the value of ocean and inland water resources and its focus on improved efficiency and sustainability in the use of aquatic resources – produce more with less – to contribute to food and nutrition security, livelihoods and economic growth.

49. The Executive Committee also noted and welcomed the expansion of the regional initiative from efficient aquaculture production through innovation to fisheries more broadly and building resilience.

APFIC work plan for 2017-2018

50. The Secretariat introduced the proposed APFIC work plan for 2017-2018 to the Executive Committee with reference to Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/17/10.

51. The Executive Committee inquired how the outputs/outcomes of regional projects such as TCP/RAS/3511 “Regional Initiative on Blue Growth – Pilot application of aquaculture planning and management tools for sustainable growth in selected Southeast Asian countries”, can be shared with other APFIC countries and how the regional project on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) can benefit more member countries.

52. In responding to the inquiries of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that member countries can benefit from participation in the more inclusive regional workshops and from the knowledge products generated by the regional projects. Furthermore, the Secretariat stated that the regional project on AMR, which is now being formulated, will cover as many relevant countries in the region as possible.

53. The Executive Committee recommended that the APFIC work plan for 2017-2018 should be incorporated into the ongoing CPF process in the concerned countries.

54. The Executive Committee endorsed the APFIC work plan for 2017-2018 as proposed by the Secretariat.

Road map to develop the 2018–2023 APFIC Strategic Plan

55. The Executive Committee discussed the Secretariat’s proposed road map to develop the 2018–2023 APFIC Strategic Plan (APFIC:EXCO/17/11).

56. The Executive Committee agreed that the current strategic plan (2012–2018), which has provided general guidance for the work of the Commission, is now approaching its end and it is appropriate that a new one be developed for endorsement by APFIC Members at the Thirty-fifth APFIC Session in 2018.

57. The Secretary outlined how the development of the plan would entail a review of the performance of the previous plans, consultation with member countries and partners, and the development of a strategic plan.

58. The Executive Committee requested clarification from the Secretariat with respect to the number of active member countries of APFIC.

59. The Executive Committee recommended that the Secretariat consult with other regional bodies and entities to ensure synergy and alignment of the strategic plan.

60. The Executive Committee suggested that additional technical areas for APFIC might include certification and trade issues, governance and legal frameworks and collaboration with regional partners.

61. The Executive Committee endorsed the road map and agreed that the Secretariat should recruit a consultant to support the work.

APFIC budget and administrative matters

62. The Executive Committee discussed this agenda item referring to Working Document APFIC:EXCO/17/12.

63. The Secretary reported the financial status of the Commission, the levels of co-finance leveraged for Commission activities in the last biennium and the expected resourcing over the coming biennium.

64. The Executive Committee reviewed the estimated budget for the current activities during the biennium and requested clarification on certain points.

65. The Secretary drew attention to the fact that FAO internal planning processes had changed and that earmarked funds were no longer allocated to the FAO Regional Commissions at the start of the biennia. In addition, the APFIC biennial work plan does not coincide with the FAO Regular Programme financial planning.

Preparation for the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Thirty-fifth Session of APFIC

66. The Executive Committee was advised on the preparations for the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and arrangements for the Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission in 2018 as outlined in Working Document APFIC:EXCO/17/13.

67. Considering dates/timing of traditional and national holidays in member countries, the Executive Committee agreed that the venue of the Seventh RCFM and the Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission would be General Santos City, the Philippines and would be tentatively scheduled for the first week of May 2018.

68. The Executive Committee agreed that these two events would be three days each and run back-to-back over a period of six or seven days at the same venue.

69. The Executive Committee agreed to the working title of the Seventh RCFM, namely "Sustainable development for blue growth of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region".

70. The Secretary advised the Executive Committee that the agenda reflects the ongoing work of the Commission under its current work plan, but there is also scope for the inclusion of agenda items that the Executive Committee considers important or relevant to APFIC Members.

71. The Executive Committee discussed the proposed agenda for the Seventh RCFM and recommended the following amendments:

- The One Health session should include emerging diseases.
- APFIC Secretariat should provide an overview of current compliance requirements of importing markets to inform the regional supply chain actors.
- The Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture should be included.
- The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries implementation experiences should be included.

72. The Executive Committee suggested that member countries' brief contributions cover efforts to improve management across capture fisheries and aquaculture, but agreed that large parts of the agenda should not be dedicated to country presentations on single themes as this will take up too much time. Members are encouraged to develop posters to share detailed information on activities. The revised agenda is provided in Appendix 8.

73. The Executive Committee encouraged broad participation by the private sector, NGO and development partners in the RCFM.

74. The Executive Committee considered and approved the arrangements of the Thirty-fifth APFIC Session as proposed by the Secretariat. These are to be finalized in consultation with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Government of the Philippines. The draft agenda is presented in Appendix 9.

Other matters

75. The delegate of the Republic of Korea introduced its collaboration with FAO on the initiative to establish the World Fisheries University (WFU). The Executive Committee welcomed the initiative between the Government of the Republic of Korea and FAO in setting up the WFU. The Executive Committee inquired about details relating to degree awarding arrangements and shared information about the former practice of SEAFDEC's joint programme with the University of the Philippines.

76. The Secretariat canvassed the Executive Committee on the prospect of expanding the APFIC activities supporting the Members through setting up a Member contribution mechanism (Membership). The Executive Committee recognized the benefit of country membership contributions and agreed for the Secretariat to bring the matter to the next Session. The Executive Committee also pointed out the complexity and lengthy process to get government approval to the country membership arrangement. The Executive Committee also suggested the Secretariat check the APFIC constitution for relevant provisions related to the matter before proceeding.

77. The Executive Committee and the Secretariat thanked the Government of the Philippines for its excellent arrangements for the Executive Committee meeting and looked forward to a productive week for the seventh RCFM and Thirty-fifth Session of APFIC.

Date and place of the Seventy-seventh Session of the APFIC Executive Committee

78. In accordance with the established precedents, the delegate of Thailand, the Vice-Chair country of the Seventy-sixth APFIC Executive Committee proposed tentatively that Thailand host the Seventy-seventh Session of the APFIC Executive Committee from 19 to 21 February 2019.

79. The Executive Committee welcomed the proposal of Thailand on the venue and date for the Seventy-seventh Session of the APFIC Executive Committee.

Adoption of the report

80. The Committee adopted the report of the Seventy-sixth Session of the Executive Committee on 23 February 2017.

Appendix 1 – Opening address: Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission

OPENING STATEMENT

Eduardo B Gongona

National Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)

Undersecretary for Fisheries, Department of Agriculture (DA)

Chair for the 76th Executive Committee Session

UN FAO Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission

To the outgoing APFIC Chairperson, Ms W.M.M.R. Adikari, Secretary of Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka, to our Vice-Chairperson Dr Chumnarn Pongsri of Thailand, to the FAO Philippines Country Representative Mr José Luis Fernández, to Mr Miao Weimin, ad interim Secretary of APFIC, to our distinguished delegates from the APFIC member countries represented here today: Viet Nam, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Magandang Umaga sa atin lahat! Good morning to everyone!

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Institutional memory tells us that APFIC, known by its previous name, the “Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council”, was initiated by UN FAO in a meeting on February of 1948, in Baguio City, the Philippines. Hence, the Philippines through the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, is delighted to host this present gathering, the Seventy-sixth Session of the Executive Committee, and the Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission back-to-back, as well as the Seventh Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) in 2018.

Today and tomorrow we will be busy reviewing activities implemented and outcomes realized during the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session and examining important documents and proposals to advance sustainable fisheries and promote inclusive growth among fishery stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region.

Equally important is reviewing the APFIC Work Plan for 2017-2018, the progress made developing the 2018–2023 APFIC Strategy and finally, discussing the preparations for the Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission back-to-back with the Seventh Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) in 2018.

I am therefore looking forward to APFIC member countries represented in this event actively engaging in the discussions and producing fruitful results during the Executive Session.

I now declare the Seventy-sixth Executive Session of the Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission open!

Salamat at Mabuhay!

Appendix 2 – Welcome address: Outgoing Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission

W.M.M.R. Adikari

Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development,
Sri Lanka

Good morning everyone,

Chairperson of APFIC, Vice-Chairperson of AFPIC, FAO Representative for the Philippines, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. As the outgoing Chairperson, I warmly welcome all of you to the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, Seventy-sixth Session of the Executive Committee. At the outset, I wish to thank the FAO for inviting me on this occasion and for giving me the privilege of saying a few words in the capacity of outgoing Chairperson of the Commission.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, having gone through the documents relating to this meeting, I am impressed by the valuable work undertaken by the Secretariat of the Commission during the inter-sessional period in responding to the needs of the member countries mainly through the staging of several international workshops and conferences, through providing direct assistance and advice to member countries in the form of technical supervision for the implementation of 20 FAO TCP Projects and nine Trust Fund Projects, and by disseminating information in the form of several important publications. I wish to place on record my appreciation of these achievements.

At the Thirty-fourth Session of the Commission, we discussed at length some of the main areas of general interest to most of the member countries such as the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, the need to provide support in combating IUU fishing, fisheries management and promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and building resilience to climate change.

Although most of the member countries are taking action to develop marine fisheries as well as inland fisheries and aquaculture on a more commercial basis through the application of new technologies, we cannot ignore the fact that in our own region small-scale fishers are still the dominant group in terms of the numbers involved in the sector and their contribution to fish production.

According to the FAO, 61 percent to 70 percent of total fisheries production in Asia, both in terms of quantity and value, is accounted for by small-scale fishers, and this group also accounts for 81 percent to 90 percent of the work force. Hence, it is imperative that the small-scale fishers remain economically viable and socially vibrant. The national fishery administrations and the regional bodies have an important obligation to support them in vital areas such as resource management, gainful employment, fish quality improvement and marketing. Already, a number of very positive recommendations have been made in two of the regional consultations concerning small-scale fishers and it is hoped that this Commission will undertake innovative initiatives to ensure that some of the more important voluntary guidelines are implemented.

IUU fishing continues to be a serious challenge to the sustainability of fisheries and APFIC has estimated the illegal fish catch in Asia by foreign vessels to be worth between US\$3.7 and US\$5.2 billion per year which is 3.4 to 8.1 million tons or 8 to 16 percent of the total reported catch. We have committed ourselves to providing our fullest support to eradicating this menace. Sri Lanka is striving seriously to deter IUU fishing through a number of measures incorporated in the National Plan of Action. I am glad to say that we are also supported actively by a technical assistance programme of the FAO. Likewise, I believe several other countries would appreciate similar assistance in combating IUU fishing. I am also glad to say that the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime has also come

forward to assist us in combating fisheries-related crimes initially by assisting us to trace and control “ghost fishing”.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, mainly in view of the known resource limitations on the further expansion of the marine capture fisheries, Sri Lanka like many other countries in the world is now striving to place a very high priority on the accelerated development of inland fisheries and aquaculture. We believe our emphasis needs to be on high-tech aquaculture including mariculture rather than on the traditional forms of aquaculture. We are proud to note that the Asian region is leading this shift of emphasis from capture fisheries to farming and we request the Commission to respond to the developing needs of countries like ours that lag behind in the race to develop aquaculture. In this respect, we appreciate the report of the consultation on “improving the contribution of culture based fisheries and related fishery enhancements in inland waters to blue growth” submitted to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Commission.

Another area in which we would like to strengthen our capacity is in building resilience to climate change. A recent study conducted in our country identified climate change and extreme weather conditions as likely to have very adverse impacts on marine fisheries and aquaculture, particularly in the North Western coastal areas of our country. To cope with these likely impacts, suitable mitigation and adaptation measures need to be planned and implemented.

One of the major challenges that countries in our region with multiple species face is the numerous resource user conflicts, particularly those in coastal marine capture fisheries that have led to never ending discussions, disputes and even social strife. We believe that instead of relying on isolated approaches we need to pursue the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in order to resolve these contentious issues. However, this needs time and gradual changes in attitudes and capacity building among the officials as well as the key stakeholders and for this we need to rely on expertise that I believe FAO and this Commission can provide.

I am sure that the participants of this meeting will be able to deliberate on these issues in greater depth and provide constructive guidance to the Secretariat in building up its work programme.

Thank You

Appendix 3 – Welcome address: Vice-chair of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission

Chumnarn Pongsri

Director of Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division, Thailand

Good morning,

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 was developed at the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held from 18 to 29 October 2010, in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, with Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 stating that “By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits”.

Furthermore, the importance of fisheries and “life below the water” is also reflected among world leaders in developing targets to “end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all”. To provide a platform for common efforts among governments, civil society and the private sector to meet these ambitions, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, held from 25 to 27 September 2015. The SDGs is made up of 17 goals together with 169 targets. In terms of fisheries and aquatic environmental protection, the SDG Goal 14 should be specifically highlighted as it states an ambition to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources”. The SDG goals have specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years (by 2030).

The Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 and the Sustainable Development Goal 14 should therefore be taken into consideration in the undertaking of activities towards sustainable development of fisheries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) has played a key role in the regional management of fishery resources, especially in combating IUU fishing, which is now a global concern. We, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to thank APFIC for providing statistics and information on capture and aquaculture production, the fishery trade and any challenges emerging in the fishery industry, which are beneficial to the member countries in enhancing their development potential and strengthening their fishery sectors. I, moreover, would like reiterate that cooperation among countries in the APFIC framework will help us narrow the development gap until we come to the point that we can move forward at the same pace.

We acknowledge that aquaculture is now a reliable source of food and therefore its production should be intensified to ensure world food security and replace production from capture fisheries. In addition, putting our full efforts into addressing various problems occurring in aquaculture should be seriously underlined. In term of marine resources conservation and protection, expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) should be encouraged to provide adequate sanctuary for marine life.

Giving precedence to marine resources conservation and management in the ASEAN region, Thailand has proposed the development of the ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy. This would, among other things, highlight the unity of the ASEAN Community. To push it forward, the Department of Fisheries will host the Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy during 28-29 March 2017, when we will seek full cooperation from the ASEAN Member States to dispatch representatives from government agencies and the private sector to participate in the said event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Thailand will be the Chair of the Seventy-seventh Session of APFIC Executive Committee, we are looking forward to welcoming you all in Thailand in 2019.

Finally, welcome to this Seventy-sixth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee. I wish you a successful meeting and fruitful discussions.

Thank you.

Appendix 4 – Welcome remarks: FAO representative in the Philippines

José Luis Fernández

FAO Representative in the Philippines

On behalf of Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan, Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, I warmly welcome you all to the Seventy-sixth Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC), which will be held in Manila over the next three days.

Fisheries and aquaculture (also known as the blue sectors) contribute significantly to food and nutrition security and to the livelihoods of millions of people around the world.

Some 880 million people are dependent on these sectors with about 200 million people relying on the value chain – from harvesting to distribution and consumption. Seafood products are among the most traded commodities globally.

Asia and the Pacific region – the APFIC region – is home to about 87 percent of people with fisheries and aquaculture-based livelihoods. In the Philippines, an archipelago with over 7 000 islands, the role of these two sectors in food and nutrition security cannot be overemphasized.

In recent years capture fisheries production has leveled off as more fishing grounds have been compromised. Fish stocks are threatened by overexploitation, marine pollution, habitat modification and destruction. The increasing pressures from rising demand, population growth and human activities are further compounded by the effects of climate change.

At the same time, production from aquaculture has been rising steadily, and is now supplying more than half the seafood consumed in the region.

The Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission has a key role in supporting its members in their efforts to manage fisheries resources sustainably through the sustainable intensification of aquaculture. As a Regional Consultative Forum, and in its role as a neutral forum, it works in partnership with other regional organizations and arrangements and its Members. It provides advice, coordinates activities and acts as an information broker to increase knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region to underpin decision-making and provide a voice to the fishery and aquaculture subsectors and those who depend upon them.

This Executive Committee of APFIC is an important advisory body, assisting the work of the Commission and the Secretariat during the inter-sessional period. The functions of the Executive Committee are principally to review progress on the recommendations of the previous Session of the Commission, advise on the biennial work programme, both ongoing and proposed, and to review the administrative and budgetary affairs of the Commission.

The agenda items you will be discussing reflect their relevance and the importance that FAO and the Secretariat place on these issues.

Deliberations in the coming days will also provide key conclusions, recommendations and advice for the Secretariat on its work planning over the coming years.

In addition, and as part of FAO's efforts to align its work with the priorities of its members, you will be instrumental in helping identify concerns that need to be brought to the attention of the Thirty-fourth FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) in 2018.

On behalf of FAO, please also allow me to take this opportunity to acknowledge our hosts, the Government of the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and their dedicated staff who have worked very hard to organize and convene this meeting.

Lastly, I thank you all for your participation and look forward to your contributions to help the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission continue to perform its crucial function as a regional advisory body in fisheries and aquaculture owned by its member countries.

Thank you and Mabuhay!

Appendix 5 – Agenda of the Seventy-sixth Executive Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2017

Opening of the Session

- Opening statement by the APFIC Chairperson
- Welcome address by the outgoing APFIC Chairperson
- Welcome comments from the APFIC Vice-Chairperson
- Welcome remarks from FAO Representative, the Philippines
- Introduction to the Seventy-sixth Executive Committee by the interim Secretary of APFIC

Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements

- Adoption of agenda APFIC:EXCO/17/01
- Introduction of participants APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 01
- Meeting arrangements APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 02
- Group photo

Agenda Item 1

Outcomes of the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session and items for the attention of the Thirty-fourth Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

APFIC:EXCO/17/02
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 03
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 04

(For discussion and decision)

Agenda Item 2

Inter-sessional activities of APFIC and ongoing work

- Summary of inter-sessional activities APFIC:EXCO/17/03
- Improving monitoring of trends and issues APFIC:EXCO/17/04
 - Regional overview of the status and trends of aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region 2016 APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 05a
 - Status and potential for fisheries in Asia and the Pacific 2016 APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 05b
 - Consolidated responses by APFIC Members to the 2015 FAO code of conduct for responsible fisheries questionnaire

Supporting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication

APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 06
APFIC:EXCO/17/05
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 07
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 08

APFIC – FAO Actions support member countries combat IUU and implement the FAO PSMA

APFIC:EXCO/17/06

Fisheries management and promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

APFIC:EXCO/17/07

Building resilience to climate change

APFIC:EXCO/17/08

Introduction to FAO Asia and the Pacific's regional initiative for blue growth

APFIC:EXCO/17/09
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 09

(For discussion)

Agenda Item 3

Proposed APFIC work plan for 2017-2018

APFIC:EXCO/17/10

(For information and discussion)

Agenda Item 4

Road map to develop the 2018–2023 APFIC Strategy

APFIC:EXCO/17/11
APFIC-EXCO/17/INF 10
APFIC-EXCO/17/INF 11

(For discussion and decision)

Reception to be hosted by Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Ministry of Agriculture

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2017

Agenda Item 5

APFIC budget and admin review

APFIC:EXCO/17/12

(For discussion)

Agenda Item 6

Preparation for the Seventh APFIC RCFM and the Thirty-fifth Session

APFIC:EXCO/17/13

(For discussion and decision)

Agenda Item 7

Any other matters

Agenda Item 8

Date and Place of the Seventy-seventh Session of the APFIC Executive Committee

Preparation of the Seventy-sixth Executive Committee Meeting report

Dinner to be hosted by FAO

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2017

Adoption of the report

Departure of participants

Appendix 6 – List of documents

A. Working documents

APFIC:EXCO/17/01	Provisional agenda and timetable
APFIC:EXCO/17/02	Outcomes of the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session and items for the attention of the Thirty-fourth FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
	Inter-sessional activities of APFIC and ongoing work
APFIC:EXCO/17/03	– Summary of inter-sessional activities
APFIC:EXCO/17/04	– Improving monitoring of trends and issues
APFIC:EXCO/17/05	Supporting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication
APFIC:EXCO/17/06	APFIC – FAO Actions support member countries combat IUU and implement the FAO PSMA
APFIC:EXCO/17/07	Fisheries management and promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
APFIC:EXCO/17/08	Building resilience to climate change
APFIC:EXCO/17/09	Introduction to FAO Asia and the Pacific's regional initiative for blue growth
APFIC:EXCO/17/10	Proposed APFIC work plan for 2017-2018
APFIC:EXCO/17/11	Road map to develop the 2018–2023 APFIC strategic plan
APFIC:EXCO/17/12	APFIC budget and admin review
APFIC:EXCO/17/13	Preparations for the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and APFIC Thirty-fifth Session

B. Information documents

APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 01	Provisional list of documents
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 02	Provisional list of participants
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 03	Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of APFIC, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 12 to 14 February 2016
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 04	Draft report of the Sixth APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 8 to 10 February 2016
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 05a	Regional Overview of the Status and Trends of Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region 2016
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 05b	Status and potential for fisheries in Asia and the Pacific 2016

APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 06	Consolidated responses by APFIC Members to the 2015 FAO code of conduct for responsible fisheries questionnaire
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 07	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 08	Summary, conclusions and recommendations of the regional consultation on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 09	Asia and the Pacific region's initiative for blue growth
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 10	APFIC strategic plan 2007–2012
APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 11	APFIC strategic plan 2012–2018

Appendix 7 – List of participants

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Appendix 8 – Draft agenda of the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting

Day 1	xx May 2018
08.00-09.00	Registration
09.00-10.15	Opening Ceremony (separate detailed program)
	– Welcome remarks by the APFIC Chairman, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines – Address by the FAO Representative to the Philippines – Opening speech by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines
Theme 1	Fisheries and aquaculture regional overview 2014
10.15-10.45	Keynote address: “Sustainable development for blue growth of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific” <i>Manuel Barange, FAO Department of Fisheries</i>
10.45-11.15	Morning tea/coffee
11.15-11.30	Forum arrangements <i>Presentation by the APFIC Secretary</i> <i>Group photo</i>
11.30-12.00	Regional overview of fisheries and aquaculture in the subregions of Asia (2017) <i>APFIC Secretariat, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i>
12.00-13.30	Lunch
Theme 2	Updates along the value chains – improvements in inputs, markets and trade for fisheries and aquaculture
14.00-14.30	Progress in responsible feeds/fishmeal in Asia Results of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop <i>Paper/presentation prepared by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i> <i>Presented by workshop-hosting member country representative</i>
14.30-15.30	Regional studies/initiatives <i>Regional/international commodities, domestic issues, value chain, market access (TBI)</i>
15.30-16.00	Afternoon tea/coffee
16.00-16.30	One Health (emerging issues e.g. AMR, EMS/IMNV) <i>[Tentatively: NACA]</i>
16.30-17.00	Country experiences improving management <i>Brief (10 minutes) presentations from APFIC Members</i>
17.00-17.30	General discussion

Day 2	xx May 2018
09.00-10.00	Country experiences with improving management (cont.) <i>Brief (10 minutes) presentations from APFIC Members</i>
Theme 3	Small-Scale Fisheries Voluntary Guidelines – From planning to implementation
10.00-10.30	Implementing the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries <i>Presentation by the APFIC Secretary</i>
10.30-11.00	Morning tea/coffee
11.00-11.30	Regional Plan of Action to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines <i>SEAFDEC</i>
11.30-12.30	Country strategies for implementing the SSF Guidelines <i>Brief presentations from APFIC Members</i>
12.30-14.00	Lunch
Theme 4	Building resilience of fisheries and aquaculture systems in the Asia-Pacific region
14.00-15.00	Building resilience to climate change of small-scale fishers and farmers in the Asia-Pacific region Results of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop <i>Paper/presentation prepared by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i> Inland fisheries and climate change Results of a global workshop <i>Paper/presentation prepared by APFIC Secretary</i> National and Regional efforts to manage risks, reduce vulnerability and build adaptive capacity in fisheries and aquaculture Regional and <i>country presentations</i> General discussion
15.00-16.30	Afternoon tea/coffee
16.30-17.00	Country experiences with improving management (cont.) <i>Brief (10 minutes) presentations from APFIC Members</i>
18.00-19.30	Poster Session – country posters or exhibits on key issues that are being addressed by the Members <i>In conjunction with light buffet reception</i>

Day 3	xx May 2018
Theme 5	Capacity building for implementation of the CCRF
09.00-10.30	Combating IUU in the Asia-Pacific region (regional updates) <i>APFIC/FAO review</i> Progress on RPOA IUU, [Tentatively: Malaysia/Indonesia/RPOA Secretariat] Implementing the Port State Measures Agreement Innovative MCS & VMS in the region Catch Documentation Schemes and Traceability ICT for fisheries
10.30-11.00	Morning tea/coffee
Theme 6	Gender along the value chain – empowering men and women
11.00-12.00	Engendering security in fisheries and aquaculture Results of the Sixth Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference <i>Paper/presentation prepared by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i>
12.00-12.30	Promoting inclusive development for women and men in aquaculture in fisheries Examples from the field (TBD)
12.30-14.30	Lunch
Final Session	Summary and recommendations for reporting to APFIC
14.30-15.30	Plenary Discussion <i>Summary and recommendations for APFIC</i>

Appendix 9 – Revised schedule of the Thirty-fifth Session of APFIC

DAY 1, xx May 2018 MORNING, 09.00 hours
Opening ceremony – Welcome remarks by FAOR-PHI/APFIC Secretary – Welcome and introductory remarks by the APFIC Chair, Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines – Inaugural speech by H.E. Secretary, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines – Introduction of the delegates
Group photo
Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session
Agenda item 1: Inter-sessional activities of APFIC
Agenda item 2: Report of the Seventy-fifth Executive Committee Meeting
Agenda item 3: Summary overview report of the outcomes of the Seventh APFIC RCFM
Agenda item 4: APFIC regional overview of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region
DAY 1, xx May 2018 AFTERNOON, 13.30 hours
Agenda item 5: Regional strategy and action plan to promote responsible production and use of feed and feed ingredients for sustainable growth of aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region
Agenda item 6: Regional strategy to build resilience of aquaculture and fisheries in the Asia-Pacific region
DAY 2, xx May 2018 MORNING, 09.00 hours
Agenda item 7: Support implementation of PSMA in the member countries
Agenda item 8: Implementation of FAO Regional Initiative for Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region
Agenda item 9: Progress in FAO/GEF initiatives for regional cooperation in fishery management
DAY 2, xx May 2018 AFTERNOON, 13.30 hours
Agenda item 10: APFIC's 2018 to 2023 Strategic Plan
Agenda item 11: Reports on achievements of regional organization partners
Agenda item 12: Other matters
Agenda item 13: Election of officers
Agenda item 14: Date and place of Thirty-sixth Session

DAY 3, xx May 2018
MORNING, 09.00 hours

Report available to delegates

DAY 3, xx May 2018
AFTERNOON, 14.00 hours

Adoption of report

Closing of the Session

Appendix 10 – Introduction to the World Fisheries University (WFU) initiative by the Republic of Korea

Thank you, Chair.

I would like to tell you about the developments and the plan of the WFU, which received a warm welcome in the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session.

After proposing the establishment of the WFU, the Republic of Korea and the FAO Secretariat agreed on the ways to build the university. Based on the result of the WFU pilot programme, we agreed to make the final decision on its establishment during the conference in July 2019.

Furthermore, the members welcomed the agreement during the Thirty-second COFI, held in July 2016. The member countries recommended the FAO Secretariat and the Republic of Korea to cooperate further on the issue. Reports on the agreement were made at the 154th and 155th Sessions of the FAO Council.

Against this backdrop, the Republic of Korea and FAO will sign a contract on the pilot project within March, 2017 to hold an opening ceremony in September 2017 side by side with the Sixteenth COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade.

The pilot programme will provide training to 30 students, six students per continent, from September 2017 to February 2019, with the goal of giving them a master's degree in fishery science. The Korean government and Pukyong National University, which is the host university, will select students and the FAO will approve them.

The WFU will be promoted through the embassies of the Republic of Korea, the homepage of PKNU, and FAO, and the Republic of Korea will provide all the costs needed to operate the pilot programme including scholarships, residence, and other amenities.

We will notify you of the details through a number of channels including the FAO Members Gate.

The Republic of Korea will report on the result of the pilot programme during the Thirty-fifth APFIC Session, and hopes that it might be chosen as one of the major agendas with the support of the Members.

I ask the Members for their continuous support and interest in the project.

Lastly, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the APFIC for supporting our efforts to establish the WFU.

Thank you very much.



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