

FOREWORD


The Mangrove-Friendly Shrimp Culture Project, which the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department implemented starting in early 2000 with Thailand as the Lead Country for the ASEAN, has developed sustainable culture technology shrimp packages on shrimp farming that are friendly to the mangroves and the environment. Funded by the Government of Japan Trust Fund Program, the Project would be completed in March 2005.

As part of the final phase of the project, it was deemed necessary to re-assess the responsible use of mangroves for aquaculture because it has always been alleged that shrimp culture has led to the devastation of the mangrove ecosystems. Thus, the Project convened the Regional Technical Consultation for the Development of the Code of Practice for Responsible Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems in August 2004 in order to come up with a Regional Code of Practice.

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region, which was adopted during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference in Thailand in November 2001 specifically promoted the need to conserve and rehabilitate aquatic habitats essential to enhance resources and increase aquaculture production in a sustainable and environment-friendly manner. This provision has been partly tackled by AQD when it developed the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Responsible Aquaculture.

The development of the Regional Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Mangrove Ecosystems for Aquaculture in Southeast Asia was initiated during the Regional Technical Consultation taking into consideration the social, cultural and ecological aspects of mangrove-friendly aquaculture as stipulated in the Regional Guidelines. This publication includes a paper on Mangroves and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia as well as paper on Mangroves Management and Development in the Philippines. Also included is the Operating Guidelines for Marine Shrimp Culture in Thailand, which serves as model for the Regional Code of Practice. This publication also documents the various codes and guidelines related to aquatic resource conservation developed by the other countries outside the Southeast Asian region.

We hope that this publication serves as a prelude to the Regional Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Mangrove Ecosystems for Aquaculture in Southeast Asia, which will be published in due time for dissemination to the Southeast Asian region.



ROLANDO R. PLATON, Ph.D.
Chief, SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department