



STIMSON



U.S.-ASEAN Conference on Marine Environmental Issues

14-15 September 2017, Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok

AGENDA AND TOPICS

Time Slot	Day 1: Thursday, September 14		Day 2: Friday, September 15	
9:00-10:15am	Opening Plenary: Leaders Forum 9:00 Opening remarks from Keynote Speaker 9:15 Leaders Panel w/ Q&A		Topic Plenary 2: The Blue Economy	
10:15am	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
10:30am-12:00pm	Topic Plenary 1: Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing		Concurrent Session 3A: Sustainability and Traceability of Fish	Concurrent Session 3B: Marine and Coastal Resource Management
12:00pm	Lunch with Keynote			
1:30pm-3:00pm	Concurrent Session 1A: Small Scale Fisheries	Concurrent Session 1B: Natural Disaster Resilience	Concurrent Session 4A: PSMA and Port Security	Concurrent Session 4B: Coral and Mangroves Restoration and Protection
3:00pm	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
3:30pm-5:00pm	Concurrent Session 2A: Managing Marine Protected Areas	Concurrent Session 2B: Ocean Pollution: Plastics	Closing Plenary: Closing Remarks by Keynote Speaker	
6:00pm	Assemble in lobby for shuttle to Dinner Cruise on Chao Phraya River			

Topical Plenary 1: Combatting IUU Fishing: The growth in the fisheries sector across Southeast Asia has contributed to the region's booming economies but has also given rise to an increase in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity. IUU fishing threatens the sustainability of fisheries and also has economic and security implications for the region. Illegal fishing may also be associated with transnational crime, including drug, arms, and human trafficking. This plenary will explore the broad implications of IUU fishing and discuss the roles governments, think tanks, academics, and non-governmental organizations should play in combatting it.

Concurrent Session 1A: Small Scale Fisheries: The fishing sector is primarily divided into two components: large scale commercial and small scale fishing. In fact, small scale fishing accounts for 90% of employment in marine capture fishing, and each component captures half of the profits from the entire fishing sector. Despite the significant portion of the fishing sector that is operated by small scale fishers, management regimes tend to overlook their scope and significance due to lack of monitoring capacity and technology to address the smaller, sometimes informal, sector. This session will discuss effective approaches to managing small scale fisheries, with perspectives from states like Myanmar, which has low technological capacity and an informal fishing sector.

Concurrent Session 1B: Lessons Learned from Cooperation in the Natural Disaster Preparatory Space: Since the 2004 tsunami, which affected much of the region, ASEAN has worked in rapid pace towards a regional framework to predict, mitigate the effects of, and respond to natural disasters, most recently with the *One ASEAN, One Response* declaration at the Vientiane Summit in September 2016. This panel highlights the successful cooperation in the natural disasters space, provides space to reflect on the successes and failures of this topic, and apply those lessons learned to the various conference sessions.

Concurrent Session 2A: Managing Marine Protected Areas: Just 2.3% of the region's maritime space is managed by marine protected areas (MPAs), despite the global commitment in the 2030 Agenda to protect 10% of the world's oceans by 2020. Building on the ASEAN Criteria for Marine Heritage Areas, the ASEAN Criteria for National Protected Areas, and several other precedents, this panel discusses ways ASEAN states can continue to reach for this goal, implement effective law enforcement surveillance technologies, and implement enforcement regulations and mandates for national MPAs. The panel will also identify areas for regional collaboration in the establishment of MPAs on the high seas. It further explores how members can engage with private sector technology firms who are well-equipped to help countries protect and enforce MPAs across the region.

Concurrent Session 2B: Stemming Ocean Pollution: Plastics: As globalization has progressed and countries' economies have grown and transitioned to plastic products, the amount of trash has outpaced the waste management capacity of many communities and coastal cities. The result is that too often litter leaks from landfills into the ocean, or is illegally dumped into the ocean or rivers, finding its way to the sea. Studies have estimated that there is 269 million metric tons of plastic debris, both microscopic and visible, floating in our seas. And the top five ocean plastic polluters are nations in Asia. While ocean pollution is on the rise, it remains under-addressed and requires updated domestic legal frameworks. Since the pollution does not remain within national boundaries once it enters the ocean, water management necessitates regional cooperation, in the form of regional frameworks, stronger enforcement and prosecution, and capacity-building to enhance management capabilities.

Topical Plenary 2: The Blue Economy: Aligning Biodiversity Protection and Economic Development: ASEAN member states are home to 34% of the world's coral cover and contain a significant proportion of global marine biodiversity. The region depends heavily on

its marine resources, both from the fishing sector and the ecotourism sector. As one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy in many countries, ecotourism depends on the protection of these natural resources. This plenary session emphasizes the importance of protecting biodiversity, as well as approaches to the sustainable development of both the fishing and ecotourism industries.

Concurrent Session 3A: Sustainability and Traceability of Fish and Fish Products: Sustainability and traceability of fish and fish products walk hand in hand. In a region where many countries are among the top producers of marine capture and aquaculture fish, and are also among the top consumers of fish as a source of animal protein, it is critical to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of fisheries and the protection of marine ecosystems that support those fisheries. ASEAN member states are significant exporters of fish products to the United States and the European Union, where traceability regulations are in development or already exist. As such, regional frameworks for transparency and traceability in the fishing industry would support the goal of a traceable and sustainable fisheries supply chain. Several states have worked with industry and technology stakeholders to increase the traceability of certain sub-national fisheries, and this workshop will build pathways through which ASEAN member states can work toward sharing effective mechanisms and strengthening regional cooperation to strengthen traceability of fisheries.

Concurrent Session 3B: Approaches to Marine and Coastal Resource Management: Across the region, fishing communities are experiencing declining fishing catches. The depletion of resources has led to increased tensions across the region, with fishing fleets venturing further away from their usual areas to compensate for this loss. ASEAN, in partnership with Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), has been implementing regional collaborative programs to clarify regional policies and priorities as well as to support national efforts to improve habitat and fisheries management, including the management of fishing capacity. This plenary examines which steps can be taken to develop better management of fisheries and other habitats through engagement at the national, local, and community level.

Concurrent Session 4A: Port State Measures Agreement and Port Security: Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is an issue the entire world faces, and one of the key routes to combatting IUU fishing is ratifying or acceding to, and implementing, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). By implementing PSMA, port states have a framework to ensure the effective monitoring, inspection and enforcement against foreign-flagged vessels suspected or known to have been engaged in IUU fishing. This workshop will explore the benefits of joining PSMA, creating pilot projects in the region, port state measures required to implement PSMA, and the steps forward to ensure illegal catch does not enter the supply chain.

Concurrent Session 4B: Workshop on Coral and Mangroves Restoration and Protection: Mangroves play a vital role in stabilizing shorelines, housing many key coastal species, reducing the impacts of coastal storms, flooding and sea level rise, while also filtering water, sediment and nutrients that flow through river deltas and impact coastal fisheries. Additionally, coral reefs play an important role in the health of ocean ecosystems, and a significant portion of which are located in the ASEAN region of the Golden Triangle. However, both in the ASEAN region and globally, mangroves and corals have often been degraded or destroyed, due to a myriad of reasons from pollution and destructive fishing practices to coastal development and increases in water temperature. This panel will explore the state of mangroves and corals in ASEAN member states, including the benefits of corals to biodiversity and mangroves for coastal communities' resilience, as well as the opportunities and obstacles to future mangrove and coral restoration and conservation.