



18 September 2021

Statement of support to the Shanghai Declaration

The ASEAN-FEN (ASEAN Fisheries Education Network) is a network which consists a team of university-based consortia representing the fisheries and aquaculture-oriented institutions within the Southeast Asia region. It currently has 36 institutional members located in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, The Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, China and Japan. ASEAN-FEN serves as a platform to promote research and development program, collaboration framework, encouraging technology transfer, networking and partnerships in extension and education.

We fully support the Shanghai Declaration in the aspect of promoting appropriate genetic technologies (both traditional and modern), control, prevention and management of transboundary aquatic animal diseases of relevance for aquaculture, feed and feeding protocols, waste managements, stress managements and to improve aquaculture production (especially in breeding), while conducting risk assessment before upscaling and dissemination of these technologies, ensuring that they are well adapted to local conditions, while maintaining a cautious approach to the use of genetically modified organisms in aquaculture.

Four groups of strategic actions will be established as regional initiatives to support the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals, (SDG-4 Quality Education) and SDG-14 Life Below Water:

Group I. Continually improve the performance of aquaculture, and its capacity to respect and better use natural resources and enhance ecosystem services in an integrated and efficient way.

Group II. Promote aquaculture development approaches that conserve and improve ecosystems and biodiversity, and reduce the carbon intensity of food production systems.

Group III. Promote opportunities for young women and men.

Group IV. Prepare for and potentially mitigate impacts from global crises, such as the climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and pandemics.

ASEAN-FEN serves as a platform for educating and disseminating information on invasive alien species prevention, as well as conservation and restocking of endangered species. ASEAN-FEN can promote the use of aquaculture systems for their ability to provide habitat and refuge for both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, as well as address the risks of antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture, through novel scientific outcomes from R&D.

ASEAN-FEN provides a platform for capacity building of young women and men (students and scientists) allowing them to participate in fisheries and aquaculture research by fostering knowledge and skill development. ASEAN-FEN, through its experts from the 36 institutional members, has the capacity to develop, promote, and carry out education programs and curricula relevant to sustainable aquaculture (in the form of pre-university, undergraduate, and postgraduate programs, short attachments, industrial trainings, summer school, summer camps, webinars/ seminars, and so on). ASEAN-FEN members can also contribute to these efforts by providing scholarships and sponsorship to (selected and eligible) youth/students for travel, fees, allowances, and/or accommodation expenses to the respective host universities (ASEAN-FEN members).

ASEAN-FEN serves as a platform to educate and support knowledge development on the climate change issue through research and development output, as well as to promote the development and expansion of climate-friendly and more resilient forms of aquaculture.

It is anticipated that at least 100 researchers and 100 students from ASEAN-FEN member countries and others will benefit from these programs in the next 10 years (2022 – 2031).



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