

# 1983 ASEAN MINISTERIAL UNDERSTANDING ON FISHERIES COOPERATION

*Adopted in Singapore on 22 October 1983*

WE the undersigned, representing member countries in the ASEAN, attending the Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in Singapore on 20 - 22 October, 1983 upon the invitation of His Excellency, Mr. Teh Cheang Wan, Minister for National Development, Singapore;

RECALLING the Declaration of ASEAN Concord signed in Bali, Indonesia on 24th February 1976, which provides that ASEAN member, countries shall take cooperative action in their national and regional development programmes;

REAFFIRMING the principles guiding ASEAN cooperation in the field of food and agriculture to promote a strong, peaceful and resilient ASEAN community;

NOTING the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly the provisions relating to Exclusive Economic Zones, and the impact it will have on fisheries development in the ASEAN region;

BELIEVING that management and conservation of fisheries resources of Exclusive Economic Zones in ASEAN region rest with the Government of ASEAN, and that closer cooperation is necessary among the ASEAN member countries;

RECOGNISING the significant contribution by the fisheries sector, to the socioeconomic welfare of the rural population and to rural development;

DO HEREBY DECLARE that we have reached consensus, and will take necessary action toward closer cooperation in the following areas of fisheries:

- A. In the management and conservation, of the fisheries resources of the Exclusive Economic Zones in the ASEAN region through:
  - (i) exchanging Fisheries information and expertise relevant to Fisheries development and management.
  - (ii) coordinating action in Fisheries resources research activities undertaken by national institutes in the member countries;
  - (iii) undertaking appropriate action in the evaluation and management of shared stocks and migratory species in the ASEAN region;
  - (iv) undertaking appropriate action for the rational utilization of fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones.
- B. In the sharing and transfer of technology at all levels to improve the socioeconomic status of the fishermen;
- C. in all aspects of Aquaculture to increase production and income of fish farmers;
- D. in all aspects of Post-Harvest Technology in support of production and marketing efforts;

- E. In promoting the trade and marketing of fish and fishery products among the ASEAN countries as well as with other countries;
- F. In identifying common areas for commercial cooperation in fisheries; and
- G. In working towards a common stand and understanding on regional and international matters in fisheries.

DONE at Singapore on the Twenty-Second day of October, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three, in six original copies.

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia: **ACHMAD AFFANDI**, Minister of Agriculture

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore: **TEH CHEANG WAN**, Minister of Natural Development

For the Government of Malaysia: **DATUK ABDUL MANAN OTHMAN**, Minister of Agriculture

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand: **BOROM TANTHIEN**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

For the Government of the Republic of Philippines: **TEODORO Q.PENA**, Minister of Natural Resources

ATTESTED: **CHAN KAI YAU**, Secretary – General, ASEAN Secretariat