

## ANNEX 2

### THE OPENING STATEMENT BY TASK MANAGER OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT

Good morning, everyone. It is great to see you again. We met earlier in year 2016. Moving on with this project, I understand that we faced certain difficulties especially in Indonesia on LOA signing and in Vietnam. We also hope that these issues will be solved very soon for execution and agreement signing. We share a lot about the project through the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) with Chris and Dr. Somboon as well as other project colleagues.

Lately Dr. Somboon represented the *Refugia* project in International Water Conference (IWC) organized in Marrakesh, Morocco where all the GEF projects met together as an opportunity to interact. Dr. Somboon prepared great materials, posters, series of video, and films. A nice way of conveying message quickly in visually Japanese style. We hear a lot about the project on fisheries *Refugia*, one of the very intriguing projects, for us to learn more about *Refugia* approach and impact. A project in Africa has been developed in a similar approach as well as one in Caribbean countries. To strengthen our collaboration and knowledge management, we may organize a sharing experience workshop having you all as ambassadors from your countries to the over continent.

It has been long since we met in year 2016. Things have been moving in unexpected dimension. We are supposed to integrate with our sister project the “South China Sea” which constitutes a fisheries component. Taking up slowly, this project will be coordinated soon and we anticipate that in 2019 we will start very well. We encourage Indonesia to sign the Letter of Agreement (LOA) as soon as possible in order to join force with the sister project and move forward in a single team.

PCU is hosted by SEAFDEC who is in charge of the project’s regional component. There is a lot of synergy needed. We look forward to actively moving the fisheries *Refugia* project. This is an ideal time for everyone to meet and plan for the year to come (2019). It is a good management practice to discuss work plan and budget at year end as a preparation for 2019 implementation. A mid-term review is coming in the near future. We all need to prepare for project evaluation, gathering of good practices, knowledge exchange among countries as learning for better project implementation.

Lastly, I am happy to meet you all again here and hope for a successful meeting.