



**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting for  
the SEAFDEC/UN Environment/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of  
a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Thansur Sokha Hotel, Kampot Province (Fisheries Refugia Site), Cambodia

**WELCOME SPEECH  
BY CHAIR OF THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

- H.E. Ouk Vibol, Director of Fisheries Conservation, Fisheries Administration of Cambodia and concurrently the National Focal Point of Fisheries Refugia Project for Cambodia
- All scientific and technical Committee;
- Invited Regional Experts
- Project Director and PCU Staffs
- Ladies and Gentlemen. >>>>

First of all I would like to express my warmest welcome you all to the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System for Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand which will be held in this hotel of Kampot from today till Thursday of 23rd May 2019. Originally, we planned to hold the meeting at Koh Kong Province, but due to the facilities issues and shortage of electricity during the dry seasons, the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia as a host institution decided to move the meeting venue to here in Kampot Province, therefore on behalf of the Chairman of RSTC and the Project Co-ordinating Unit we highly appreciate to the FiA for excellent arrangements for the meeting. I would like to inform you that Thansur Sokha Hotel is the first and only highland resort in the Mekong Sub-Region amid the pristine jungle wilderness and pleasant cool weather on the beautifully landscaped hill on the Bokor Mountain. I wish you all are comfortable and enjoy stay during stay for the meeting.

Distinguished Guest and Committee !

I have good news to inform you all that Viet Nam has signed the Letter of Intent for implementing the national fisheries refugia. I also would like to inform you that Indonesia will sign the Letter of Agreement within this week in Bangkok, Thailand. These are good news that all relevant 6 countries on board the implementation to ensure that all 14 Fisheries Refugia Sites are implemented and make a Regional System of the Fisheries Refugia completed.

Concerning with our meeting at this time, I strongly believe that this is a good opportunity to all committee and regional expert to discuss, giving recommendation and exchange good experiences receiving from the past implementation of works from each country and regional expert. In addition, the meeting aiming to stimulate new ideas for implementing the arrangement to establish the fisheries refugia system in all relevant country and to work together on the transboundary species.

Once again, on behalf of Chair, I wish the whole meeting to have a good carrying out and to get a fruitful success as the expectation and wish your stay and extension of stay for recreation in Kampot Province get a convenience and extreme satisfaction.

Thank You!