



**The 2nd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for
the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

5th – 6th November 2019

Pullman Miri Waterfront Hotel, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia

OPENING ADDRESS BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF

THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES MALAYSIA

Selamat Datang and Welcome to Malaysia! The Government of Malaysia is very pleased to host The 2nd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand at Miri, Sarawak. It is our pleasure to gather all, here in Miri, the second largest city in Sarawak and one of our fisheries refugia site is located here. You will have the opportunity to see the site tomorrow during our technical visit. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Miri as everyone says Malaysia is Truly Asia. You will see that it's one country where you will find culturally diverse people and experience the best of what Asia has to offer. Don't forget to explore, eat, shop and most of all, enjoy your stay here and experience our Malaysian hospitality.

On the establishment of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea, Malaysia is very delighted to be part of this project since 20th June 2017 and has identified two (2) sites namely tiger shrimps in Kuala Baram, Sarawak and spiny lobsters in Tanjung Leman, Johor. The Government of Malaysia recognises the importance of refugia in the sustainable fisheries resource management and working along to be aligned with SDG Target 14. Therefore, many activities have been carried out by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia specifically setting up two (2) Refugia Information Centres, awareness programs and consultations with the relevant stakeholders.

On the behalf of Government of Malaysia, I would like to thank SEAFDEC and UNEP/GEF for their continuous support and assistance towards the implementation of the project. Starting from 2018, the Government of Malaysia has received USD 125,646.58 till Q4 of 2019 from UNEP/GEF. In addition, Malaysia provides co-finance for this project through the government's management and development budget. Malaysia is looking forward to establish the two (2) identified successfully and would like to extend the concept to other potential sites as it is very beneficial for the resource management. Thank you