



PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

Regional Workshop on Information Exchange on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

24–26 February 2026

Bangkok, Thailand

Global trade in food commodities plays an essential role in supporting livelihoods, enhancing food security, and strengthening national economies. Among these commodities, fish and fishery products are some of the most widely traded, especially for developing countries that rely heavily on this sector for employment, income, and exports. In 2022, global trade in fishery products reached 70 million tons, which accounted for 38 percent of total fisheries and aquaculture production, with an estimated value of USD 195 billion (FAO, 2024). This trend reflects the rising global demand for aquatic products and the growing complexity of international fish supply chains.

However, fisheries play a crucial role in both local and global economies, yet their sustainability is increasingly threatened by overfishing, resource depletion, and governance challenges. Among these pressures, Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the most persistent and critical issues, undermining fisheries management, depleting fish stocks, and damaging marine ecosystems. Operating outside legal frameworks, IUU activities distort markets, disadvantage lawful fishers, and often evade detection due to limited transparency and traceability in supply chains. The problem is particularly acute in Southeast Asia, where insufficient management and weak Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) exacerbate the pressure on fishery resources. Addressing IUU fishing requires urgent and transparent action, including stricter regulation of fishing vessels, mitigation of overcapacity, and the implementation of effective rights-based management systems.

One of the key strategies for addressing IUU fishing is strengthening MCS to ensure effective enforcement and sustainable fisheries management. Within this framework, the exchange of timely and accurate information is crucial, as it enhances the detection of illegal activities, supports cross-border coordination, and improves the overall efficiency of monitoring efforts. Strengthening Information Exchange on MCS helps close governance gaps, facilitates collective action, and is essential for safeguarding marine resources in the long term.

Recognizing the importance of regional collaboration, the SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) implement the project “Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia” start 2024 to 2026, main aim to enhances national and regional responses through digital innovation, targets capacity building in MCS systems, and fosters transparency and enhances regional cooperation and networks in ASEAN Member States (AMSs).

Therefore, to enhance regional cooperation and strengthen the effectiveness of MCS in combating IUU fishing, the “Regional Workshop on Information Exchange on MCS for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” will be organized as a part of the project. The Workshop provides a dedicated platform for sharing timely and accurate information, improving coordination among participating countries, and facilitating joint efforts to detect and deter illegal fishing activities. By fostering collaboration and building

technical capacity in the region, the initiative reinforces cooperative action among AMSs and advances more effective measures against IUU fishing in the region.

OBJECTIVES

1. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned on the implementation of MCS systems among AMSs.
2. Building regional understanding for the MCS of combating IUU fishing
3. Enhance regional collaboration in combating IUU fishing among AMSs.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Updated understanding of current MCS implementation and practices relevant to combating IUU fishing among AMSs.
2. Regional capacity for MCS of Combating IUU fishing is improved
3. Enhanced mechanisms for sharing experiences and best practices on MCS at the regional level.
4. Strengthened coordination and communication of MCS network to support future collaborative actions.

DATE AND VENUE

The Workshop will be held from 24 to 26 February 2026 at the Best Western Nada Don Mueang Airport Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

PARTICIPANTS

- Representatives from AMSs (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) who are practitioner level and responsible for MCS activities to combat IUU fishing

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

24 February 2026 (Tuesday)

Time	Activities
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–10:00	Agenda 1: Welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by GIZ• Opening remarks by SEAFDEC Agenda 2: Introduction and objectives of the workshop/ adoption of the agenda Agenda 3: Strengthening regional fisheries governance: measures to prevent IUU fishing in Southeast Asia (by Secretary-General of SEAFDEC)
10:00–10:30	<i>Refreshment and group photo</i>
10:30–12:00	Agenda 4: Country presentations on current MCS implementation consist of current MCS implementation and enforcement measures, country strategies to combat IUU fishing, laws

	<p>and regulations to support the implementation of MCS activities, key challenges, gaps, and needs for MCS implementation by participating countries (30 minutes per country)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunei Darussalam • Cambodia • Indonesia • Lao PDR
12:00–13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00–16:00	<p>Agenda 4: Country presentations on current MCS implementation (continue)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaysia • Myanmar • Philippines • Singapore • Thailand • Viet Nam • Other
16:00–17:00	<p>Agenda 5: Discussion on common issues, challenges, and suggested recommendations on current MCS implementation in Southeast Asia</p> <p>Facilitation by GIZ</p>
18:00–20:00	<i>Reception dinner</i>

25 February 2026 (Wednesday)

Time	Activities
09:00–09:30	Agenda 6: Regional approaches to enhance MCS for combating IUU fishing and prioritize nine priority areas for future action to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia by SEAFDEC/TD
09:30–12:00	<p>Agenda 7: Regional cooperation to support implementation of MCS to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO/RAP • AN-IUU • Nha Trang University (NTU) • RPOA-IUU • GIZ (BlueFairFish Project) <p>Discussion on the area of cooperation (facilitation by GIZ and SEAFDEC/TD)</p>
12:00–13:00	<i>Lunch</i>

13:00–16:00	Agenda 8: Group discussion on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination on MCS to combat IUU fishing in the region • Regional capacity building need on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitoring ○ Control ○ Surveillance <p>Brief of visiting and observing MCS implementation activities in Thailand</p>
-------------	--

26 February 2026 (Thursday)

Time	Activities
09:00–16:00	Visiting and observing MCS implementation activities in Thailand

V. 22/1/2026