



SEAFish for Justiceⁱ

THE MALALAYANG DECLARATION: A REJOINER TO THE MANADO OCEAN DECLARATION AND THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE SUMMIT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SMALL SCALE FISHERS

RECOGNIZING that the estimated 20 million small scale fishers in the region are one of the most socially, politically and economically marginalized sectors in our societies;

CONCERNED that the ocean, fisheries and coastal resources play an important role in the lives and livelihoods of small scale fishers, providing their households with food, employment and income, and contribute significantly to economies in the region;

MINDFUL that weak management of the ocean, fisheries and coastal resources has led to the destruction of coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass beds, the depletion of fish stocks, and, ultimately, to the persistent poverty of small scale fishers;

EMPHASIZING that priority should be given to small scale fisheries in recognition of its important role in promoting rural development, food sovereignty and sustainable livelihoods;

EMPHASIZING FURTHER that community-based coastal resource management (CBCRM) is a process of small scale fishers reclaiming their rights based on the principles of stakeholder involvement in decision-making, and preferential access to fisheries and coastal resources;

EMPHASIZING FURTHER that CBCRM should be provided a basis in national and local law, and be given proper compensation and incentives consistent with provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries on guarantee of fishing rights for small scale fishers and protection of their fishing grounds;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that small scale fishers, coastal communities, fisheries and aquaculture are among the sectors most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, sea surface temperature rise, ocean acidification and increased incidence of extreme weather events;

CONCERNED FURTHER that these negative impacts of climate changes are expected to result in physical dislocation of fishing communities, decreased fisheries productivity, increased food insecurity, increased vulnerability to natural disasters, and increased poverty;

MINDFUL FURTHER that existing natural and human-induced stresses on the ocean, fisheries and coastal resources, compounded by the negative impacts, is expected to make attainment of agreed international development goals including those contained under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);

BASED ON THE FOREGOING PREMISES, the Southeast Asia Fish for Justice Network (SEAFISH) conveys its views and positions to the organizers of the World Ocean Conference (WOC) and the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Summit, and pledges to undertake consequent actions to achieve the following, to wit:

1. Any and all initiatives resulting from the WOC and the CTI Summit should affirm the central role of small scale fishers and coastal communities in managing fisheries and coastal resources, and protecting the world's oceans;
2. Any and all initiatives resulting from the WOC and the CTI Summit must guarantee access and control over fisheries and coastal resources to small scale fishers and coastal communities;
3. Any and all initiatives resulting from the WOC and the CTI Summit must ensure human security including measures to respond to the expected food crisis from climate change impacts;
4. Any and all initiatives resulting from the WOC and the CTI Summit must work towards the legal settlement of resource use conflicts including those that involve illegal fishing by foreign vessels, and land-based pollution caused by foreign mining companies;
5. Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and on the concept of ecological debt, developed countries must allocate resources sufficient for climate change adaptation plans in coastal communities in developing countries; and
6. Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and on the concept of ecological debt, developed countries must provide financial and technical support to small scale fishers and coastal communities for initiatives to integrate climate change adaptation into local fisheries and coastal resources management and development programs.

SIGNED: 15 May 2009

Members of the Southeast Asia Fish for Justice Network:

Indonesia: Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI) - Koalisi Rakyat untuk Keadilan Perikanan (KIARA) – Telapak Foundation

Philippines: Tambuyog Development Center - Center for Empowerment and Resource Development (CERD) - Kilusang Mangingisda (KM) - DEVELOPERS Foundation - PROCESS Bohol Foundation - Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC) - Lanao Marine and Aquatic Resource Center for Community Development (LAFCCOD) - Center for Advancement and Strengthening of Community Property Rights (CASCO)

Vietnam - Center for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD)

Cambodia - Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)

ⁱ SEAFish for Justice is a Southeast Asian network of non-government organizations working in fisheries and fisherfolk organizations. It is the co-organizer of the events held by Manado People Alliance wherein Manado Authorities illegally arrested leaders from WALHI and illegally detained and deported 15 Filipino activists in an attempt to draw out small fishers agenda regarding ocean and coastal resource management and put forward it to the ministers attending the first World Ocean Conference and CTI Summit being held during the period from May 11-15, 2009 in Manado, Indonesia.