

Opening Remarks
The Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue
By
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Director General, Department of Fisheries
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Distinguish Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue. I also wish to extend our appreciation to the World Wildlife Fund for the contribution to make this Dialogue happen.

Asian countries are also one of the main shrimp producers and exporters to the world market. Shrimp industry contributes to the significant foreign income and domestic employment. Therefore shrimp industry plays vital role in economic development of our countries. On the other ankle, sustainability, social responsibility, food safety on shrimp aquaculture have been in the great attention of environmentalist, NGOs and importing countries' market. As a result, many shrimp certification schemes, guidelines or standards were developed based on environmentally friendly, food safety, and

social responsibility concepts. Thailand as one of the leading countries exporting shrimp to international market has been foreseeing the significance in maintaining the high standard and quality shrimp production. Therefore, the quality and safety of shrimp production from farm level to processing level-using from farm to table approach has been the focus of our attention over the last decade.

During this two days discussion, I understand that there will be discussion the concept, criteria, and indicators of shrimp aquaculture principle, criteria, and indicators outlining from Africa and America Shrimp Aquaculture Dialogue. I am sure that throughout this meeting, the experiences and knowledge among all shrimp related sectors could be shared extensively. I do hope that the results gained from this meeting would also be applied to the practical and scientific based global shrimp aquaculture standard.

Lastly, I wish to thank World Wildlife fund for your contribution to this dialogue. I hope this dialogue will bring us with the fruitful outcome and look forward to seeing Global Shrimp Aquaculture Standard in the very near future and wish you all a pleasant stay in our beautiful Bangkok.

With that, I now declare this dialogue open.

Thank you very much.