



Southeast Asian Aquaculture: How Far Are We?

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Editorial

Asian countries mostly developing 3rd World nations competes for various commercial and food products from the leading brands down to the unknown and undeveloped companies. Though this has been the trend far more than a decade, products around the world still and always revolved around marine production despite of its shortage due to the unceasing demand. Leading foods includes fish, molluscs and crustaceans play a vital role in human consumption as a valuable source of protein.

South Asia and Southeast Asian countries are the leading contributors of fish and fishery products in the world fish market. Countries such as China, Indonesia, India, Vietnam and Myanmar contest to be known as the prime fish producer in Asia though China stands to be the biggest producer and consumer of fish since 2010 as stated in World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report of 2012. According to Garibaldi out of 51 Asian countries, 60.80% was reported to have inadequate catch data in marine and freshwater aquaculture. Other Asian countries, static but thrive to produce good quality of fish enhancing their productivity through alteration of traditional fishing method into advanced technologies coming from the 1st World Countries. So to speak that only the biggest fish farmers are able to use and administer these state of the art facilities. All these are being patterned through International Standards primarily coming from the

different States of America or European Unions. Can Asian countries be able to sustain these standards beyond its margin?

Investors from other countries continuously seek for opportunities to devote their resources in the pristine waters of Asia; aquaculture is merely the key reason for the influx of tourism. Several aquaculture companies already invested not only in equipment but also in rearing of non-Asian premium and high-class species of fish to grow in regions of several Southeast Asian countries. Some fractions of the lands are still yet to discover and developed. Despite of these adversaries, government authorities of Southeast Asian countries industrialized good aquaculture practices to provide livelihood and increase its cash inflow, a remarkable impact to its governance.

Reflecting the development of aquaculture industries, vis-à-vis' commercialization is quiet imbalance due to unstable sustainability. Some challenges involve the kind of feed use and its supplementary, culture system and production, and poor biosecurity causing major disease outbreaks from the wild. Food security is now the key point towards attaining higher yield and productivity, a basic requirement for importation and export of fish and fishery products worldwide. The concept towards aquaculture changes and the desire of each country for a suitable fish farming centres in the production of good quality of fish that are safe for human consumption, either inland or marine aquaculture.