



**Welcoming Speech of the CEO of WWF-Indonesia
on
The Coral Triangle Fishers Forum
Sanur, June 15, 2010**

- ***Mr. Anang Noegroho, Director of Center for Analysis of International and Institutional Cooperation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia,***
- ***Mr. Dr. Wahyono Hadi Pramono, Secretary of the Inspectorate General of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia,***
- ***Mr. Ida Bagus Mulyata, Head of Bali Province Fisheries Agency,***
- ***Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan, Director of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC),***
- ***Honorable Participants, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to welcome you all, on behalf of WWF, to the inaugural meeting of the Coral Triangle Fishers Forum; a platform for regional dialogue among leaders in the fishing community, fishing organizations, seafood companies, scientists and technicians on sustainable fisheries to help deliver on the goals of the Coral Triangle Regional Plan of Action.

As WWF-Indonesia's new CEO, having recently joined the organization on the 1st of June 2010, this international forum is the first meeting I am attending on behalf of WWF.

I believe that this meeting would not be possible without the help of many dedicated people and institutions, therefore we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and

Fisheries for co-hosting this monumental event with WWF—an event where regional fishery stakeholders can gain perspective from fishers around the region, learn more about the issues that affect them, and gain a common ground in achieving sustainable and equitable fisheries.

We also wish to recognize the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) for its involvement as co-sponsor and who shares the same common interest of expanding the implementation of better fishing practices and bycatch mitigation, while considering fishing livelihoods. And to recognize WWF-Germany, we also thank EDEKA for its funding support.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

We all know that in recent decades, world fisheries have become a market-driven, dynamically-developing sector of the food industry. Coastal states have striven to take advantage of these new opportunities by investing in modern fishing fleets and processing factories in response to growing international demand for fish and fishery products.

By late 1980s it became clear, however, that fisheries resources could no longer sustain such rapid and often uncontrolled exploitation and development, and that new approaches to fisheries management embracing conservation and environmental considerations including by-catch reduction measures are urgently needed.

Each year millions of kilograms of non-target species are caught, leading to concerns over the wasteful management and inefficient use of resources, negative ecosystem impacts, as well as harming population of critical species like turtles, sharks and marine mammals.

A growing number of consumers and retailers are clamoring for more responsibly-caught seafood. Clearly, this provides an incentive for fisheries to reduce by-catch and tangibly improve their practices. By reducing by-catch and utilizing proven tools and Best Practices, fishing operations can embark on a programme of gradual improvement towards sustainability. For both industrial and smaller-scale fisheries, the opportunity to advance Best Practices and discuss issues among

peers will provide a good basis for improving sustainability and improve fisheries governance.

In fact, techniques and technology to reduce bycatch are well tested and confirmed but their use has been limited in the Coral Triangle region, due to the lack of appropriate management regulations, the lack of awareness of the issue along the supply line, the lack of appropriate incentives, and limited programs of sufficient scope and size to gain fishermen and industry support.

Already several business and fisherfolks have made important commitments to work along the supply line to reduce bycatch. In Indonesia, WWF has worked with the Center for Capture Fisheries Research and the Directorate General of Capture Fisheries to initiate a bycatch reduction program through the “Circle Hook Program Trial” for tuna longline fisheries in Benoa and Bitung since 2006. Over the period of time, circle hook has proven effective to minimize turtle bycatch by 80% without reducing the amount of tuna catch. Currently there are 25 vessels actively using circle hook.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Under the theme of *Market-based Partnerships for By-catch Reduction and Responsible Fishing Practices*, this inaugural meeting aims to:

- ✓ facilitate the sharing of information and experiences on by-catch reduction and Best Practices in Coral Triangle and regional fisheries,
- ✓ Share lessons learned from partnerships on by catch reduction, Best Practices and other examples of “continual improvement”,
- ✓ expand collaborations in the region on fisheries improvement among supply chain actors,
- ✓ develop a “road map” identifying relevant enabling policies and programs implementation,

- ✓ and to formally establish a multi-stakeholder Coral Triangle Fishers Forum as a platform for regional dialogue on sustainable fisheries that helps deliver on the goals of the CTI Regional Plan of Action.

The meeting also aims to identify benefits, policies, and techniques and available technologies on best fishing practices that enable bycatch mitigation and adhere to market-based opportunities. This Coral Triangle Fishers Forum then becomes an important ongoing platform for regional dialogues on sustainable fisheries.

It is expected that the pertinent results of the CTFF will be presented at the Fifth International Fisheries Forum (IFF) in August 2010, where a special session on market-based collaborations is being organized.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I sincerely hope that this forum will allow participants to share knowledge and experiences and express commitments to improve fishing practices in general, and apply by-catch mitigation measures in particular, to achieve sustainable fisheries goals.

Finally, I wish all the participants a fruitful discussion throughout the meeting and an enjoyable stay in Bali.

Thank you for your indulgence,

Dr. Efransjah

CEO-WWF Indonesia