



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2015/SOM2/OFWG/022

Agenda Item: III A

Information Sharing: Malaysia Economy Report

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Malaysia



APEC
PHILIPPINES
2 0 1 5

**5th Oceans and Fisheries Working Group Meeting
Boracay, Philippines
10-12 May 2015**

Information Sharing
5th APEC OFWG, Boracay, Philippines
By MALAYSIA

Following up from our last information sharing during the 4th OFWG held at Clark, last January, I hereby have the utmost pleasure to inform that Malaysia has launched her Second NPOA- Fishing Capacity on 24th March 2015. The launching ceremony was officiated by the Deputy Director General of Fisheries Malaysia, Mr. Johari Ramli during the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for Management of Fishing Capacity in Southeast Asian Countries which was convened in Malaysia.

Marine and coastal biodiversity consist of coastal hill dipterocarp forests, mangrove forests, mud flats, coral reefs and sea grass areas.

Malaysia has a coastline of some 4,800 km, and sits on the geologically stable Sunda Shelf. About half the coastline is beaches and slightly less than half is fringed with mangrove forest. There is relatively little rocky coastline. Both the beach and mangrove ecosystems boast distinct, unique and spectacular biodiversity, and provide a broad range of ecological services ranging from tourism and recreation to providing critical habitat for reptilian, crustacean, mollusc and fish species. Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) on the coasts of Malaysia have been identified and mapped in the National Physical Plan. These ESAs include mangrove forests, marine parks, critical coastal erosion areas and turtle landing sites.

Coral reefs in Malaysia are estimated to cover close to 4,006 km². Coral reefs support not less than 700 species of fish that are dependent on coral reefs as a habitat. Coral reefs are valuable economic and ecological resources. They have important ecosystem functions that provide crucial goods and services to hundreds of millions of people, mostly in developing countries. They are the foundation of a significant proportion of the global tourism industry, and are a major source of biodiversity.

It is reported that USD 5.5 billion is generated from the coral reefs of the world annually. Within Southeast Asia, the potential sustainable economic value of coral reefs is substantial, as is the potential economic loss if these resources are degraded. One estimate puts the value of coral reefs at US\$115,740 per hectare per year. This places Malaysia's reefs at a value of US\$45.31 billion per year. Economically, coral reef-related businesses in Malaysia are worth approximately US\$635 million annually in food, fisheries, tourism and even pharmaceuticals. Economic value of marine parks in Malaysia is estimated to range between RM 10.1 million to RM 3.4 billion base on ecosystem services they provide.

Malaysia is part of the "Coral Triangle", an area recognised by scientists to contain the world's richest marine biodiversity. Coral diversity is highest in East Malaysia, estimated at over 550 species while Peninsular Malaysia has over 480 species of coral. Coral reefs represent an economically important ecosystem and are the foundation of a significant percentage of the country's tourism industry.

Malaysia has gazetted 42 Marine Parks to date with a total area of 2,486.13 km². These areas are coral reef areas with patches of mangrove and seagrass beds. These islands are being managed by the Department of Marine Park Malaysia. Marine parks are established to protect and conserve various marine habitat and aquatic marine life. In Peninsular Malaysia, marine parks are created by way of gazettment under the Fisheries Act of 1985.