



MSG Secretariat
Secretariat du GFLM
Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

MSG DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REMARKS
at 2nd MSG/Indonesia Inshore Fisheries Training Programme
17th October 2023, Ambon, Indonesia

(Acknowledgements and courtesies)

Selamat Pagi

Ibu Saimima, Second Assistant from Governor of Moluccas Province Office and Representatives from the Governors Office,
Mr I Nyoman Radiarte, Head of Research and Human Resources of Marine and Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Marine and Fisheries of Indonesia,
Mr Hendra Pramana, International Development Cooperation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia,
Dr Lilly Pregiwati, Director of Ambon Center of Training and Extension of the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries,
Mrs Febrian Maail and Officials of the Province of Moluccas and the City of Ambon, including the Police Chiefs
Mr Abu Bakar, Head of Center of Training and Extension Fisheries,
Participants of the Training of Applied Inshore Fisheries,
All Protocols Observed,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Last year, I had the honour and privilege of standing before such a gathering in Ambon to be part of the initiation of the inaugural MSG/Indonesia Inshore Fisheries Training Program as part of the efforts to implement the MSG Inshore Fisheries Roadmap 2015 - 2024.

Since taking up office last September I had made a deliberate decision to try, as best I can, to implement, in a concerted way, the MSG Inshore Fisheries Roadmap because that is where my people will derive most benefit from.

This year marks the second year in which, with the generous assistance of the Indonesia Government, we will be continuing the training programme that I am convinced will be beneficial to those SME entrepreneurs in our coastal communities and those policy officials in our Fisheries Ministries, Departments or Authorities.

While I was not part of the classroom phase of the training programme, my participation in the excursions and fieldtrips of the training programme last year left me with the conviction that there was much to learn from Indonesia in the area of inshore fisheries development and management.

My presence again this year at this training programme is to signify, in an unequivocal way, the usefulness and importance of this training programme to the MSG membership.

With the experience of last year, I know you will be all undergoing a training programme that has been tweaked to better suit our needs and requirements. It has not escaped my attention that the title of training programme this year includes the word APPLIED – making it Applied Inshore Fisheries Training. This suggests a welcome emphasis on practical application of knowledge and not simply theory.

In our quest to find ways to address the development challenges that confront our countries in the coastal fisheries space, the MSG focus will be on community engagement with particular emphasis on involvement of womenfolk and youth.

It is my strong desire and intention to continue this collaboration with Indonesia, and indeed it is my fervent hope that the Indonesian Government's benevolence with respect to this training programme can be extended for a few more years so that we can have more of our people, youth and womenfolk, undertaking this programme.

I would want all of you participants to provide proposals, from your own viewpoints, as to how best we can better improve on this programme.

For me, as I just alluded to earlier, I would want to see more of our people involved in coastal fisheries benefit from the training programme. So how do we get to have a wider community engagement?

I would want to see if we could identify certain components and modules of this training programme so that they can be run at the ground level and on sight in selected MSG countries. In other words, I would want to have certain aspects of the training programme undertaken in either Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu or Papua New Guinea.

This would involve Ambon Fisheries experts, trainers and practitioners to come to MSG countries and be deployed in our selected coastal communities to teach what they know to our people. It would be a hands-on approach to teaching and learning. Skills such as salt making, water harvesting, techniques in adding value to fisheries and marine products, marketing methods, etc, could be imparted to a larger group in this format.

Another proposition I would want considered is for the possibility of MSG Fisheries scientists and experts being allowed to be attached to your Fisheries institutions for a period of time to learn from their counterparts here in Ambon.

You have successfully done many things in the fisheries sector that I would want MSG fisheries experts to learn. A few things that come to my mind, is how to breed traverly, brackish water tilapia, cross-breed aquarium fish, and propagate seaweed in a lab and distribute it to farmers for growing in the sea.

I have, in my discussions with other development partners involved in assisting us with participation in the Blue Economy, made known this fisheries training programme to them

and we are actively exploring synergies that could be exploited to add value to what we are doing here at Ambon under this training programme.

I was in attendance at the AIS Ministerial and High Level Meetings in Bali last week. The central focus of our conversation was on the Blue Economy and how we can get our people to participate in the Blue economy in ways that respect our oceans and seas and their ecosystems. A critical component of that Blue Economy is the inshore and coastal fisheries.

The Blue Economy and its sustainability cannot be developed without proper management and development of the coastal and inshore fisheries. As such, the training that is being undertaken in Ambon is crucial in ensuring that a vibrant and sustainable Blue Economy is developed in the MSG countries where our coastal communities can meaningfully participate in and benefit from targeted interventions in the inshore and coastal fisheries.

Once again, let me thank the Indonesian Government for its generosity in allowing us the opportunity to have a follow-up training to the one undertaken last year. The feedback received from those of you (participants) that participated last year has encouraged me to declare that there is need to continue this collaboration.

I am appealing and indeed hoping that the Indonesian Government will see its way clear to continuing this training programme.

I wish participants all the best and please learn as much as you can from our Indonesian brothers and sisters so you can all come home with knowledge that will enable us to develop a robust Blue Economy for everyone living along our extensive coastlines and our milliard of small scattered island atolls.

I thank you. Terimah Kasi.