



**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
and European Union (EU) praising Thailand
as a model for sustainable solutions on IUU fishing**



Agriculture Minister 'Chalermchai Sri-On' is the only Minister in Asia invited to give a speech on the international stage. Alongkorn Ponlaboot, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives announced that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European Commission has extended the exclusive invitation. Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister, Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, is one of the six Ministers from 194 member countries, to give testimonial statements and attend a panel discussion at the Ministerial and Senior Official Meetings (High-Level event) on the International Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and the Resolving of Illegal Fishing (IUU Fishing) to be held on May 31, 2021.

Mr. Alongkorn added that Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, has the policy for the Department of Fisheries to work closely with all relevant Departments, including Harbor Department, Customs Department, Navy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Labor, Royal Thai Police and various Departments both in central and regional. The policy aims at drawing participation among government agencies, commercial fishery operators and local fishermen to continuously resolve the problem on illegal fishing (IUU Fishing). The Thai government, particularly Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives are determined to eliminate the IUU fishing problems as they recognize the need to maintain the sustainability of aquatic animal resources for future generations, not only for Thailand, but also for global resources as a whole. Addressing IUU fishing problem has been set to become a national agenda. Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives closely supervised this matter. It is believed that Thailand has laid the foundation for IUU fishing preventive measures, which consists of 6 key areas: 1. Legal 2. Fisheries Management 3. Fleet Management 4. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) 5. Traceability and 6. Law Enforcement. The system has been established along with restoration and development of the potential of Thai fisheries. As a result, the United Nations (UN), FAO and the European Union praise Thailand as a model for sustainably resolving IUU fishing.



Mr. Thanawat Tiansin, Minister (Agriculture) and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN in Rome (FAO/IFAD/WFP) added that the Ministerial and high-level official meetings will discuss, exchange information and present the work progress of the Member States who have signed the International Agreement on Port State Measures or PSMA. This event will be held for the third time between May 31 and June 4, 2021 with an aim to raise awareness on solving the problem on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing) and promote the implementation of member countries' policies in accordance with international laws and agreements on PSMA. These will also sustainably conserve and protect fisheries and ocean resources. Mr. Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General, Mr. Virginijus Singavissius, European Union Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries and Mrs. Agnes Kalibata, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Food System Summit will jointly give the opening remarks on May 31, 2021. On June 5 of every year, FAO and countries around the world will organize relevant activities on International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing in order to raise awareness and involve Member States and fisheries stakeholders to sustainably solve the IUU fishing problems. Ministers from 6 countries: Canada, Republic of Fiji, Mozambique, Republic of Peru, Spain and Thailand are invited to give a speech and announce achievements on solving the IUU fishing at national level. Thai Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives is the only country in Asia invited to give the speech at this very important global conference.

Source: Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Rome, Italy

Office of Agricultural Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, Washington DC

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