



ฝ่ายเกษตร ประจำสถานกงสุลใหญ่ ณ นครลอสแองเจลิส
Thailand Office Of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles
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Thailand hosts “The 16th INFOFISH Tuna 2021
Virtual Conference and Exhibition”



Thailand is currently hosting The Sixteenth INFOFISH World Tuna Trade Conference and Exhibition – Virtual between May 19 - 21, 2021. The theme of this year's Conference is The Global Tuna Industry: Trailblazing through tough times (Covid-19). Thailand pledged to continue pushing the world's tuna industry towards success and sustainability.





Dr. Chalermchai Sree-on, Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) revealed after joining the meeting that “this conference is a collaboration among INFOFISH, the Department of Fisheries (DOF), the Thai Tuna Industry Association (TTIA), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). This conference is held every two years and Thailand has had the honor to host 8 meetings since 2004.”

It is anticipated that this meeting will be the world's largest tuna technical and trade conference meeting, with the aim of exchanging information on the tuna industry in a comprehensive manner including: academic knowledge, the state of global tuna resources, tuna resource management, development of technology and innovation, formulation of various legal measures, trade and marketing, as well as business problems and obstacles. The event also facilitates business negotiations opportunity between buyers and sellers, which will bring sustainable benefits.

Tuna is one of the world's most popular aquatic products with a high value chain. The market for tuna products has increased dramatically over the years to meet global consumer demands. In 2020, the world exports of Tuna was approximately 3,042,000 tons which is about 14.20% increase in volume from 2015. It is recognized that commercial tuna fishing is an important part of economic and social development that does not adversely affect natural resources and the environment (Blue economy). Apart from being the highly-demanded products, canned tuna or raw tuna (sashimi) are considered as a significant source of protein in the world. Moreover, Tuna is also important in the food chain in tropical and temperate waters which supports the heritage of artisanal fisheries.

However, the tuna industry is currently facing several challenges, especially in building consumers' confidence upon the source of the tuna as being traceable and the raw materials as not deriving from IUU fisheries and complying with international standards. In addition, the Industry has to provide evidence to support the sustainability of the world's Tuna resources.





Dr. Sree-on reiterated that “Thailand, as the producer and exporter of quality tuna products to the world market, has given priority to the sustainability of tuna resources. Pursuant to this commitment to support sustainability of the tuna industry, Thailand developed a monitoring program and an efficient traceability system to ensure that the source of tuna is from legitimate fisheries and meets international standards. As such, Thailand would like to encourage all countries and all sectors to jointly drive the tuna industry as a support towards food security and sustainable development goals by practicing sustainable fisheries that embraces justifiable ocean exploitation and marine resource conservation”.

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