

**BIMSTEC Joint Survey Project
on Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management in the Bay of Bengal
30 October 2007, Phuket**



The Inauguration Ceremony of the **BIMSTEC Joint Survey Project on Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management in the Bay of Bengal** on board M.V. SEAFDEC, was presided over by Dr. Somying Piamsomboon, Director-General of Department of Fisheries, at Laem Panwa, Phuket on 30 October 2007. The said project is an initiative under the BIMSTEC framework to enable BIMSTEC member countries to evolve policy for optimum utilization of fishery resources and to manage their fishery resources in a sustainable manner.

Thailand, through its Department of Fisheries, is the lead country in Fisheries Cooperation. The objectives of this project are to assess the potential of fishery resources in the Bay of Bengal; to collect fish biological data (species composition, distribution, catch-ability and its environment) of the potential pelagic fisheries resources particularly on tuna and oceanic squid by using three types of fishing gears namely pelagic long-line, drifted gillnet, and automatic squid jigging; and also to study the oceanographic information. Scientists from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal are joining the survey to work in collaboration with the Thai scientists on board the research vessel.

This project is financially supported by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Foreign Missions' Integrated Project. This project focuses on resource survey in the assigned areas in the Bay of Bengal by the research vessel M.V. SEAFDEC from 25 October to 21 December 2007 for 58 days covering the survey area of 115,200 square miles in Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.