

**Message of the Department of Agriculture Secretary
Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr.**

**National Industry Dialogue on Sustainable
Aquaculture Supply Chains in the Philippines**

Makati Diamond Residences, Makati City

October 27, 2025

A PLEASANT DAY TO EVERYONE!

**ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
I EXTEND MY SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR ORGANIZATION AND THE JAPAN-FUNDED
RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY
CHAINS PROJECT FOR CONVENING THIS NATIONAL
INDUSTRY DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE
AQUACULTURE SUPPLY CHAINS.**

**THIS DIALOGUE IS BOTH TIMELY AND NECESSARY
AS WE CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE
FOUNDATIONS OF A RESILIENT, COMPETITIVE, AND
SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE
PHILIPPINES. BRINGING TOGETHER GOVERNMENT,
INDUSTRY, AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS ALLOWS
US TO IDENTIFY SHARED PRIORITIES AND BUILD
COLLECTIVE ACTION TOWARD RESPONSIBLE
BUSINESS CONDUCT AND DECENT WORK ACROSS
OUR AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAINS.**

**AT THE DA, WE RECOGNIZE THE INVALUABLE ROLE
OF AQUACULTURE IN NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY
AND INCLUSIVE RURAL GROWTH. IN PARTICULAR,
SHRIMP AND SEAWEED HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS
PRIORITY COMMODITIES UNDER OUR RESPECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT ROADMAPS. THESE COMMODITIES
NOT ONLY DRIVE OUR FISHERIES' GDP BUT ALSO
SERVE AS VITAL SOURCES OF LIVELIHOOD FOR
THOUSANDS OF COASTAL AND FISHERFOLK
COMMUNITIES.**

YET AS WE PURSUE GROWTH, WE ARE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT DEVELOPMENT MUST BE ROOTED IN SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND RESPECT FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. PRODUCTIVITY SHOULD NEVER COME AT THE COST OF OUR WORKERS' DIGNITY AND THE HEALTH OF OUR ECOSYSTEMS.

THROUGH THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES' GOOD AQUACULTURE PRACTICES FRAMEWORK, COMMODITY DEVELOPMENT ROADMAPS AND THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREAS ANCHORING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT, WE CONTINUE TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS THAT ENSURE SAFETY, TRACEABILITY, AND FAIR LABOR CONDITIONS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OUR FISHERFOLK AND AQUACULTURE WORKERS WITH A SAFE AND DIGNIFIED WORKING ENVIRONMENT, EMPOWERING THEM AS PRODUCERS AND AS STEWARDS OF OUR RESOURCES.

I COMMEND THE ILO, THE RISSC PROJECT, AND OUR PARTNER AGENCIES FOR ORGANIZING THIS DIALOGUE. MAY THIS INITIATIVE INSPIRE COLLABORATION AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND GUIDE US TOWARD A TRULY INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY.

MARAMING SALAMAT, AT MABUHAY ANG MGA MANGGAGAWA SA SEKTOR NG PANGISDAAN!