

**No. 10**  
**Astounding Pattani fishing boat employs technology**  
**to solve labour shortage and promote the effective use of energy**  
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Fishing generates more than nine billion baht of income per year for Pattani Province. The harvest is used for both direct consumption and as ingredients in food processing factories. A portion of them will be sent to neighbouring provinces in the southern region and other regions of the country. However, the fishing industry is faced with the challenge of labour shortage and dependence on foreign labour, increasing production costs.

A solution for labour shortage has been experimented in Pattani with the launch of a purse seine fishing boat that uses modern technology and highly effective labour-saving devices. It is co-funded by the Japanese Trust Fund 2018 and the owner of the ship, each side contributing approximately 1 million baht. The labour-saving devices were tested with a 91.71-gross tonnage boat called N. Lappasert 8, which conducts fishing activities in the Gulf of Thailand. The boat joined the Effective Use of Energy and Reduction of Labour on Fishing Vessels Project, which is a collaborative effort between the Department of Fisheries, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), Pattani Fisheries Association, and ship owners in Pattani, to solve the problem of labour shortage in the fishing industry, and to maintain the quality of the catch, which are critical to the fishermen's livelihood.

Mr. Adisorn Promthep, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, informed that Thailand requires more than 30,000 people in the fishing industry and depends largely on foreign labour. As a result, entrepreneurs have to carry the burden of ensuring that their foreign labours have all the necessary documents and that their presence in Thailand is legal, which makes it costly. Hence, they have come together to identify alternatives to using labour on fishing vessels, and reducing costs, by experimenting with new technology. Such technology can be used to improve fishing equipment, with a view to promote the effective use of energy and safety, reduce labour, and maintain the fresh quality of marine animals until they reach consumers. New technology can also help fishermen to maintain a good price for their products.

With regard to the first purse seine fishing boat of Pattani, the boat initially required 30 people as labour. However, after installing labour-saving devices, including a hydraulic system, such as cranes, power blocks for hauling fishing nets, and cold-storage compartments, it was found that labour could be reduced by 50 percent, the fresh quality of marine animals could be preserved while the costs could be reduced. This marks another step in technological development to improve and modernise Thai commercial fishing vessels, and support Thai entrepreneurs in the fishing industry.

It demonstrates efforts to solve the problem of labour shortage in Pattani's fishing industry, and can serve as a model for fishing industries nationwide.