Vietnamese Caramelized Shrimp (Tom Rim)

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Serves 4-5

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs shrimp (size 91+)
- 1 teaspoon salt for cleaning
- 3 tablespoons fish sauce
- 1 tablespoon chicken or mushroom stock powder
- 1-1/2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon MSG (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 5 garlic cloves (mince)
- 1 large shallot (mince)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or annatto oil
- 1 green onion (optional; slice into 1-inch segments)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Devein the shrimp with a toothpick. Insert toothpick underneath vein (in-between shrimp shell) and gently lift vein out of the shrimp.
- 2. Clean the shrimp by adding shrimp and salt in a medium-size bowl. Massage salt into the shrimp then rinse and drain dry. This cleans and gets rid of any fishy smell.
- 3. Marinate the shrimp with fish sauce, stock powder sugar, MSG, black pepper, half of garlic and half of shallot for at least 30 minutes.
- 4. In a large skillet, heat the vegetable oil on medium high. Add remaining garlic and shallot. Sauté until fragrant (15-20 seconds). Add shrimp and all its marinade. Stir shrimp to cover them in the aromatics. Cover and cook on low simmer for 2-3 minutes. Then uncover and continue to cook until liquid is mostly cooked off.
- 5. Garnish with sliced green onions and a dash of black pepper. Serve with steamed rice.