

Working for Fisheries, Aquaculture, and the Environment

The Kaohsiung Declaration

The Asian Fisheries Society declares that:

The importance of fish, fisheries and aquaculture in the context of the natural and human environment should be reaffirmed at the Johannesburg Summit.

Fisheries and aquaculture should continue to be developed to their optimum sustainable levels so that they contribute to the food and nutritional security, livelihoods, economic growth, and improved living standards in Asia and the rest of the world.

Cooperation is needed at national, regional and international levels among sociopolitical and academic institutions and the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to achieve sustainable aquatic production, environment protection, and socioeconomic development.

National governments and the development assistance community should increase their commitments to the fisheries and aquaculture research and development so that they can meet the challenges of industry sustainability and globalization, and ecosystem protection and rehabilitation and contribute to welfare of poor in developing countries.

Background: Current realities in Asian fisheries and aquaculture

- Fish and fisheries products are the primary sources of animal protein in Asia and make a major contribution to the world's food supplies.
- Asia is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of fish and fish products.
- Inland and marine capture fisheries and aquaculture are major contributors to the food security and livelihood of millions of Asians, and the economies of the Asian countries.
- Despite the large harvests from fisheries, the vast majority of Asians who depend on fisheries are mired in extreme poverty.
- Rapid population growth in Asia and

elsewhere in the world increases the demand for fish and the pressure on fisheries resources.

- International trade and globalization place greater demands on Asian fisheries and aquaculture.
- The open-access commons nature of most capture fisheries has led to the degradation of many marine and freshwater ecosystems and the decline of fisheries stocks in Asia and around the world. A Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries has been formulated to protect ecosystems and ensure the sustainability of the fisheries industry.
- Aquaculture has long produced additional fish for a larger Asian population and is expected to increase its contribution to the global food supply. Some aquaculture practices have caused environmental problems, but public vigilance and a Code of Conduct for Responsible Aquaculture are expected to keep the industry environment-friendly and sustainable.
- Marine and freshwater ecosystems in Asia contain the greatest diversity of species in the world, but many species are now vulnerable or threatened with extinction due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and pollution.
- Enhanced capabilities in science and technology, resources management, and people empowerment are needed in all developing countries of Asia, to meet the challenges of fisheries and aquaculture sustainability, environment protection, and globalization.

Asian Fisheries Society: Action Plan for the Decade

1. Support research and development in fisheries, aquaculture, and the environment.
2. Bring greater awareness among

national governments, multi-lateral financial institutions, and donor agencies the importance of fisheries and aquaculture and encourage them to increase their commitments to the sector.

3. Communicate scientific knowledge on the state of fisheries resources and help national and local governments and communities to implement effective management measures to sustain fisheries.
4. Disseminate scientific knowledge and appropriate technologies for sustainable development of aquaculture.
5. Disseminate and support the implementation of the provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (and Aquaculture) and the recommendations of the International Commission on Dams for the integrated management of aquatic ecosystems and fisheries in river basins.
6. Facilitate the implementation of watershed and coastal resources development and management that integrates fisheries and aquaculture.
7. Help formulate and implement policies, regulations, and bio-safety protocols that safeguard Asia's aquatic biodiversity, including endangered and threatened species and ecosystems.
8. Strengthen human resource development among fisheries and aquaculture professionals in Asia, and emphasize youth and gender representation in capacity building.
9. Enhance global and regional cooperation and advocacy on fisheries, aquaculture, and environmental issues through better use of existing networks among professional fisheries organizations.

The Kaohsiung Declaration: Position Statement to the Johannesburg Summit 2002

Inspired by a strong and meaningful keynote address by Dr. Meryl Williams (ICLARM-The World Fish Center), the 6th General Assembly of the Society held in Kaohsiung on 28 November 2001 adopted a resolution on the status of the aquatic resources and the urgent steps that need to be taken for the sustainable management of the resources. The ensuing document (see p.43) will be widely circulated to bring to the attention of all including the forthcoming Johannesburg Summit 2002 (World Summit on Sustainable Development), of the state of

aquatic resources and the concerted action that needs to be taken for the sustainable management of the resources.

As Dr. Williams puts it, "The Asian Fisheries Society could play a major role in building the knowledge bridge on Asian fisheries if it chooses. Around the world, professional societies are taking up the challenge and seeking new and more public ways to get their messages across. The Society could speak out and give its well-informed scientific opinions on how fisheries prosperity can be achieved. This is often more

difficult for national scientists or institutes to do as they could risk their careers or support if they have to draw to the attention of policy makers the state of national fisheries and the often politically unpopular actions that may be needed to improve the situation long term. The Society offers a more neutral span in the knowledge bridge."

The Society takes up the challenge and anticipates a more active role in addressing fisheries issues in both regional and global arenas.

Malaysia to host 7th Asian Fisheries Forum 2004

The 7th Asian Fisheries Forum will be hosted by Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia along with Universiti Putra Malaysia, the Malaysian Ministry of Agriculture, the Malaysian Fisheries Society, ICLARM - The World Fish Center and the Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia.

The Asian Fisheries Society plans to make the 7th Forum the biggest fisheries event in Asia. Working on the theme *New Dimensions and*

Challenges in Asian Fisheries in the 21st Century, the status of Asian Fisheries will be brought to a new level, providing ideas and solutions to overcome the inherent and unique challenges in Asian Fisheries and generating technical advancements in tandem with global developments. Other activities and events will include workshops, discussions and special symposia; trade exhibition and related tours and field trips.

Further information on the forthcoming forum may be accessed through the Society webpage (<http://www.iclarm.org/afs> or www.nayon.com/afs

For inquiries, write to: The Secretariat, 7th Asian Fisheries Forum, School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11700 Minden, Penang, Malaysia. Tel.: +60-4-6577888 Ext. 4005; Fax: +60-4-6565125; E-mail: wkng@usm.my

Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture

The Fish Health Section of the Society will host the 5th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA5) from 25–28 November 2002 in Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia. Two satellite workshops will follow the Symposium: Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (29-30 November 2002) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Mollusc Health Management Training Program Phase II (2-6 December 2002).

Scientific Sessions will cover

biosecurity and risk assessment; emerging diseases of finfish and other vertebrates; molluscan health; molecular technologies; genetic selection for disease resistance; shrimp disease - control and prevention; finfish and shellfish immunology; probiotics and therapeutics; epidemiology; and trans boundary diseases.

For details on symposium write to: Daniel Havas, Event Manager, OzAccom Conference Services 5th Symposium on Diseases in Asian

Aquaculture, PO Box 164 Fortitude Valley QLD 4006, Australia. Tel: +61 (0) 7 3854 1611; Fax: +61 (0) 7 3854 1507; E-Mail: daa5@ozaccom.com.au; Internet: <http://afs-fhs.seafdec.org.ph>

For further information about the workshops, please contact: Dr. Chris Baldock - Tel: +61 7 3255 1712 (Epidemiology and Risk Assessment) Dr. Rob Allard - Tel: +61 7 3840 7723 (Molluscan Health)

Third Photographic Competition on Women in Fisheries a success

The Partnership for the Development of Kampuchea (PADEK) once more provided support to the Society for the organization of the third photographic competition on *Women in Fisheries* during the 6th Asian Fisheries Forum held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, November, 2001.

The competition attracted 32 entries and most of the winning photograph entries focused on women in aquaculture activities.

The photos that have won the prizes have been featured in a number of fisheries magazines and newsletters, thereby contributing to increased awareness. In view of its successes, PADEK has agreed to continue support for the organization of the 4th Photographic Competition coinciding with the 7th Asian Fisheries Forum scheduled for 2004.

The winning entries were:



First Prize -
Rubiyanto W. Haliman, Indonesia
Knitting a hole for better yield



Second Prize - B.B.Sahu, India
Woman in aquaculture -
a nurse and a conservator



Third Prize - P.K.Sahoo, India
We grow fish for our family



Third Prize -
Md. Gulam Kibria, Vietnam
Women harvesting fish in Bangladesh

ANNOUNCEMENTS



29 -31 October 2002

Den Pasar (a major marine export and fishing port, Bali, Indonesia)

Organised by Society for Underwater Technology

Offshore mariculture is defined here as at least 30 km (20 nm) or more from land. It is thus beyond the approximate maximum distance that makes daily round trips to service the cages or other containment methods feasible. This leads to the exploration of the principal characteristic of this type of mariculture, which is operational self-sufficiency at sea and reducing the need for runs to shore.

OFFSHORE MARICULTURE

An International Conference to Explore the Feasibility of Farming the Ocean Beyond the Territorial Sea

The conference will be structured around six topics to bring out the key issues: designing the floating farm: a model open-ocean, self-sufficient mariculture array design will act as a trigger for ideas and as a focus for assessments; techniques: inshore vs. offshore; logistics: issues include supply, energy, personnel, security and enforcement, product return to market; environmental and social considerations; law of the sea and other regulations; and economics/business appeal.

Conference proceedings: abstracts and extended summaries of papers presented at the

conference will be available in hard copy/on diskette at the conference; opportunity to publish full papers in refereed Journal of the Society for Underwater Technology; summary of conference discussion sessions published separately and available online on the Society's webpage. Accepted papers will be required by 14 July 2002.

For more information, contact: Society for Underwater Technology, Innovation Centre, Exploration Drive, Offshore Technology Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8GX, UK, Tel: +44 (0)1224 823637, Fax: +44 (0)1224 820236, e-mail: jeansut@sstg.demon.co.uk