

# OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Meryl J. Williams, other Symposium convenors, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to provide the opening remarks for the Global Symposium on Women in Fisheries.

Addressing gender issues is increasingly being recognized as an important development component. It is encouraging that the contributions of women, particularly in fisheries, are being documented and given due recognition.

The theme of the 6th Asian Fisheries Forum - Asian Fisheries: Diversification and Integration - encompasses the need to address all relevant issues and put them into a perspective where contributions from all sectors would be duly respected and honoured.

I believe Asia has come a long way in giving women their due respect and recognition in various fields. In politics, Asian women have excelled exceptionally well in recent years. Here in Taiwan, we have a woman Vice President, our guest of honor during the opening ceremonies. In the Philippines and Indonesia, the current Presidents are women. Perhaps some of you joined the optional tours yesterday and you met Dr. Chen Tzyy-Ing, the woman Director of the Tungkang Marine Laboratory. Dr. Chen is the first woman to become a Director of one of the branches of the Taiwan Fisheries Research Institute. I am very honored to inform you that there are five women out of sixteen seats in the seventh Asian Fisheries Society council and a woman has been elected as President. Evidently, women are becoming more involved in decision-making of the Asian Fisheries Society, indicating that we are quick to respond to positive and constructive changes of our society in general.

I congratulate the convenors of this symposium for their unwavering initiative to pursue and address the global issues on women in fisheries. I believe Dr. Williams and ICLARM-The World Fish Center deserve the credit for leading this particular endeavour.

I am confident that your goals will be achieved and accordingly recognized. Who knows, maybe in the future, a global symposium may be held on men in fisheries.

Thank you all very much. I wish you a very successful symposium.

I.C. Liao

*President, Asian Fisheries Society*