

editorial

It gives me great pleasure, as the new Board Chair of the WorldFish Center, to introduce this issue of NAGA—the WorldFish Center Quarterly.

Firstly, we congratulate Dr. Modadugu Gupta winner of the 2005 World Food Prize, awarded in recognition of his outstanding lifetime of work in aquaculture. Dr. Gupta embodies the true ethos of WorldFish, an outstanding scientist, a dedicated humanitarian and a tireless worker for the underprivileged and disadvantaged. His work, described in this issue of NAGA, has dramatically improved the lives of countless people in many parts of the world.

A major focus of this issue is the December 26 tsunami that devastated the Indian Ocean region last year. The impact of the tsunami was not felt equally. The burden was placed firmly on the shoulders of the already poor coastal communities, and disproportionately to the women in those communities—as shown in the article by P.S. Choo. These communities were often eking out a subsistence lifestyle dependent upon already over-exploited coastal fish stocks. Simply returning these people to their 'before-tsunami' status is not an acceptable response. Development of the region needs to be addressed from a much more holistic point of view with infrastructure, coastal zone management and sustainable fisheries policies developed with the intimate involvement of the local communities. The WorldFish Center, in coordination with many regional and international organizations, is working to build better futures for the survivors and future generations, as outlined in the Board of Trustees statement included in this issue. The article by Stobutzki and Hall also illustrates this point and provides initial recommendations for reconstruction.

Another focus for the WorldFish Center this year is on our work in Africa. The UN Millennium Development Goals included some ambitious targets including those of halving extreme poverty globally. The countries of sub-Saharan Africa are falling behind and are not on target to reach these goals. In August this year a Fish for All summit will be hosted by the Nigerian Government, organized through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat, FAO and the WorldFish Center (highlighted in the announcements section). Fish make a vital contribution to national income, food security and health for over 200 million Africans. New investments are needed in the industry as the exploitation of natural fish stocks is reaching its limit and aquaculture production has not yet fulfilled its potential. The December issue of NAGA will take a predominantly African focus with a report on the NEPAD Fish for All summit and related articles on fisheries and aquaculture development in this region.

Professor Trond Bjørndal



The mission of the WorldFish Center is to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture.

We aim for:

- poverty eradication;
- a healthier, better nourished human family;
- reduced pressure on fragile natural resources; and
- people-centered policies for sustainable development.

A way to achieve this:

Through research, partnership, capacity building and policy support, we promote sustainable development and use of living aquatic resources based on environmentally sound management. The research thrusts are:

- improving productivity;
- protecting the environment;
- saving biodiversity;
- improving policies; and
- strengthening national programs.

We believe this work will be most successful when undertaken in partnership with national governments and nongovernmental institutions, and with the participation of users of the research results.

Our corporate makeup:

WorldFish Center is an autonomous, nongovernment, nonprofit organization, established as an international center in 1977. The Center is an operational entity with programs funded by grants from private foundations and governments.

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WorldFish Center is one of the 15 international research centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) that has initiated the public awareness campaign, Future Harvest.