

**WORLD FISH CENTRE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FULL BOARD  
THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING  
(TELECONFERENCE)  
3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2008**

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**Present:**

- Ambassador Remo Gautschi	Chairman
- Dr Wendy Craik	Vice-Chair
- Dr S. Ayyappan	Member
- Dato' Junaidi Che Ayub	Member, Ex-Officio
- Dr Asger Kej	Member
- Dr Stephen Hall	Member, Ex-Officio, Director General
- Ms Vimala Menon	Member

**Board Secretary:**

- Dr James K. Oliver	Director, Science Co-Ordination
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**Absent With Apology:**

- Dr Ezzat Awwad Ibrahim	Member, Ex-Officio
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**Staff in Attendance:** Mr Wayne Rogers and Dr Patrick Dugan

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Agenda item 1a      Opening Remarks**

The Chairman opened the meeting and indicated that there were a number of important issues to discuss, especially the review of the Centre's financial outlook for 2009.

**Agenda item 1b      Apologies**

Professor Ezzat was not able to attend the meeting.

**Agenda item 1c      Declaration of conflict of interest**

The Chairman invited members to declare any possible conflicts of interest. No members had any conflicts to declare.

**Agenda item 2      Review and approval of the proposed agenda**

The agenda was accepted without any modification.

### **Agenda item 3      Review of Centre's Financial Outlook for 2009**

The Director General introduced the paper on the financial outlook for 2009 and indicated that there had been a detailed analysis of the project pipeline for 2008 and 2009 which provided greater confidence levels to the prediction which had been made at the previous Board meeting. The Director of Corporate Services provided additional comments on the paper. He stated that Management had looked carefully at projected income from restricted and unrestricted sources and had also carried out a detailed analysis of spending patterns throughout the organization. As forecast at the previous Board meeting, there is a projected funding gap of 1.5 million for 2009. The paper lists a number of actions (totalling \$2.0 – \$2.7m) which can be taken to reduce Centre spending in order to address this gap.

One Board member commented that it was timely to do this affordability analysis and that unless the Centre is able to increase its overhead recovery rate we may have reached the limit of growth. Achievement of the Centre's target of \$30m in 2012 may not be possible without increased overhead recovery. The Chair suggested that the \$30m should be formally discussed at the next Board meeting.

The Director General pointed out that the estimates for restricted grant income in 2009 were based on a 30% rate of conversion of proposals in to projects, and that this was a very conservative rate, given current conversion rates closer to 60%.

Another Board member asked if cutting 1.5m from Centre operating costs would affect effective functioning of the Center. The Director General indicated that while making all of the reductions (totaling 2.7m) listed in the table would pose significant problems, the Center should be able to continue functioning effectively by carefully selecting 1.5m from the suggested reductions. Some of the savings will be realized by reducing activities at Abbassa and he asked the Deputy Director General to comment on the likelihood that the Egyptian government might provide additional funding for Abbassa.

The Deputy Director General updated the Board on the Egyptian Aquaculture strategy. He indicated a letter from the Egyptian Government asking WorldFish to assist with the Strategy was expected in the near future, but that it was unlikely that any promise of funding would be included in this letter. He was still hopeful that funding would be obtained to support Abbassa but could not predict when this would be confirmed.

The Chair summarized the discussion, commending Management on the precision of the analysis and stating that the Board has full confidence in the messages and the proposed actions in the paper and noted that the actions are conservative in nature.

The Board agreed to the recommendations in the paper.

#### **Board Decision:**

- **The Board notes the current analysis of income and projections for 2009 and welcomes the measures identified to reduce core expenditure by up to US\$1.5 million in 2009. (Board Action: 37-1)**
- **The Board requests that Management: (i) take the steps necessary to secure the income required to meet the budget targets; (ii) proceed to reduce core expenditure as required to achieve a balanced budget for 2009. (Board Action: 37-2)**

#### **Agenda item 4      Review and approval of Aquaculture CCER Panel and Terms of Reference**

The paper was introduced by the Deputy Director General. He indicated that 6 people had been identified as being suitable to serve on the CCER and that Management recommended Dr John Lynam and Professor Peter Edwards to be appointed.

The Director General confirmed that the cost of the CCER would be approximately \$25k and that this had been budgeted for. In response to another query he indicated that while some CCERS were of questionable value to the Center, the proposed Aquaculture CCER was timely and that he was confident that the proposed reviewers would produce valuable advice and recommendations. It was agreed that it might be useful to review the role of CCERS in relation to the Science Advisory Committee at a future meeting.

The Deputy Director General indicated that the report will be produced by the end of October and could be tabled for discussion at the December Board meeting

The Board agreed to the recommendations.

#### **Board Decision:**

- **The Board agreed to the proposed Terms of Reference for the Aquaculture CCER (Board Action: 37-3)**
- **The Board approved the appointment of Dr John Lynam and Professor Peter Edwards as CCER panel members (Board Action: 37-4)**

#### **Agenda item 5      Review of Pacific operations**

Minutes of this section is restricted to Board members only.

#### **Agenda item 6      CGIAR Reform**

The Board Chair introduced the papers on CGIAR Board reform and indicated that both he and the Director General were actively involved in this important ongoing issue and would value feedback from Board members on current development in the change management process within the CGIAR.

The Board discussed the papers at length. Some Board members indicated that the documents did not make it clear how the proposed changes differed from the current situation and how they would affect the Board. One Board member suggested that there was increasing interest from donors in a central funding system and in the clustering and possible merging of Centres. This would make it important for WorldFish to identify other Centres with which it could be closely aligned. This alignment might be by discipline (NRM Centres) or by target resources (Animal Centers).

The Director General stressed that the situation was still quite fluid and that the Alliance had felt it was necessary to put forward a paper outlining its view on possible future arrangements rather than waiting for the review process to propose ones which might not be considered optimal.

It was agreed that there should be a dedicated session at the next Board meeting to discuss these issues in more detail and to update the Board on any further developments

**Agenda item 7      Any other business**

There was no other business. The Chairman closed the meeting after thanking all participants for their contributions.