

**WORLD FISH CENTRE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TELECONFERENCE
41ST BOARD MEETING
28TH MAY 2009
HQ, PENANG**

Present:	- Ambassador Remo Gautschi - Dr Wendy Craik - Dr Stephen J. Hall - Dr Ayman Abou-Hadid - Ms Vimala Menon	Chairman Vice-Chairman Member, Ex-officio, Director General Member, Ex-officio Member
Absent	- Dato' Ahamad Sabki	Member, Ex-officio
With	- Dr Asger Kej	Member
Apology:		
Board Secretary:	- Dr James K. Oliver	Director, Science Coordination
Staff:	- Dr Patrick Dugan	Deputy Director General

DRAFT MINUTES

Agenda Item 1a: OPENING REMARKS

The Board Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting, particularly Prof. Ayman, who was participating in his first Board meeting.

Agenda Item 1b: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Asger Kej and Dato' Sabki.

Agenda Item 1c: DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Board Chair asked all participants if they had any conflicts of interest which they wished to declare. All Board members indicated that there were no conflicts.

Agenda Item 2: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by all Board members without any changes.

**Agenda Item 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MUST WIN BATTLE STRATEGY 1 –
 FOCUSING OUR ENERGY**

The Board Chair invited the Director General to introduce the paper on Must Win Battle 1. The Director General gave a brief overview of the paper and noted that this built on the presentation on the Must Win Battles that he gave during the last board meeting.

The Board Chair asked members for general comments or requests for clarification. All Board members indicated that the paper was well thought out and analysed, and addressed the key issues. There was a brief discussion on the need to produce International Public Goods while doing work in specific countries. The Director General pointed out that for NRM-related work, the international requirement is less realistic since solutions to key problems need to be contextualized at the country or local level. This was less of an issue for crop improvement research in other Centers. However the learning derived from work at the individual country level could be applied at a regional or global level. In response to a query regarding the importance of engaging with regional organizations, the Deputy Director General indicated that some regional organizations were specifically identified, but other were still in need of further development, and the identification of funding arrangements.

The Board Chair requested specific comments on the geographic approach described in the paper, and the identification of Program, Project and Partners within 3 broad geographic regions. All Board members agreed with the analytical approach and the final analysis presented in the paper. In response to a query on how program countries in sub-saharan Africa could be funded, the Deputy Director General indicated that there is ongoing analysis of potential for countries to become program countries, and that in the case of the DRC, it is unlikely that this will be achieved in the near future. The case is more positive of Malawi and Zambia, but future funding may not be sufficiently consistent to achieve full program country status. In response to a query on how a country might progress from a partner country, through project country status to become a program country the Deputy Director General stated that progress upwards would required funding to pursue opportunities. Once program country status was achieved there would be further investment of core funding do develop other countries.

The Board Chair requested comments on the Science Management section of the Board paper. All Board members agreed that the simplified structure was appropriate, and that it was clearly argued and presented. There was some discussion on the roles of the Director General and Deputy Director General, and the perception of substantial overlap in their functions. The Director General explained that there was a distinction in the emphasis placed on strategy and operations. The Director General would focus most on higher level strategy while the Deputy Director General would deal primarily with strategic science implementation and operational issues.

The Board agreed to accept the conclusions of the Paper. It was agreed that the Director General would make an announcement to all staff, notifying them that the Board had approved the conclusions and recommendations from Must Win Battle 1.

Board Decision:

The Board approved the conclusions and recommendations contained in the paper “Report and recommendations on ‘Must-win-Battle 1’ Focusing our Energy” regarding country focus, science planning, science structure, and science leadership. (Board Action: 41-1)

Agenda Item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the Chair thanks all members for their participation and closed the meeting.