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Message from the Chairman

Dear Cooperators

I truly appreciate your remarkable leadership and cooperation that made it possible to enhance world fisheries.

In March, I was elected as the 24th KNFC president representing fishermen in Korea. According to the ICFO Rules, I was given the honor to serve as ICFO chairman in succession of the former chairman whose term as KNFC president had been expired.



The ICFO has struggled to make a contribution to the sustainable development of cooperatives through programs such as the "World Fisheries Cooperative Day" and education for fishermen and talent in developing countries. These achievements have played a crucial role which is able to bridge the gap among our members by sharing expertise and experiences.

Owing to these efforts and contributions of ICFO, three new members, Palestine, Maldives, and Bolivia have joined the ICFO this year to have cooperation.

With its growth, having 25 members from 23 countries, ICFO is now the representative organization of the world fisheries cooperatives in the name and reality, and a center to unite people of the world fisheries.

However, the world fisheries are facing various challenges of rapid population growth, a dramatic decrease in fisheries resources, an increase in maritime pollution, and global warming due to industrialization. Due to such difficulties, no one can ensure the sustainability of fishing industry.

With rapid changes affecting the fisheries environment, fisheries cooperatives across the world should unite under the leadership of the ICFO to get over challenges we face and make continuous contribution to the advancement of humanity.

I look forward to your full attention and participation for continuous growth of the world fisheries and I hope that all of the ICFO members closely cooperate to build better fisheries environment across the world.

I wish all of you and your family a healthy, happy and prosperous future.

Yours Sincerely

Kim Im-kweon, ICFO Chairman

The 5th World Fisheries Cooperative Day



According to the decision made at the General Assembly of the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization held in Cape Town, South Africa, in November 2013, a member cooperative to which an awardee of World Fisheries Cooperator Prize belonged would host the anniversary celebration. But unfortunately the ICFO could not decide on a recipient in this fifth year of the World Fisheries Cooperative Day.

Therefore, the ICFO and the Korean National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives (KNFC) operating the ICFO Secretariat, jointly hosted the celebration for the fifth World Fisheries Cooperative Day in order to highlight the ambitions and values of fishermen and to strengthen the status of the fisheries in the global arena.

More than 200 guests including Kim Im-Kweon, ICFO Chairman; Charles Gould, ICA Director General; Wibisono Wiyono, President of National Federation of Indonesian Fishermen's Cooperative Societies; Lee Seok-Hyung, President of National Forestry Cooperative Federation; Moon Cheol-Sang, National Credit Union Federation of Korea; Park In-Ja, President of iCOOP Korea; heads of KNFC member cooperatives and employees of the KNFC participated in the celebration held in the Grand Hall at KNFC on 16 June 2015.

The ICFO Chairman stated in his opening remarks, "The fishing industry is facing rapid changes in environment, such as global warming. So as to get over the crisis, fisheries cooperators should join forces and carry out our mission to preserve the sea which has played a crucial role in food supply.

Charles Gould, ICA Director-General, gave a keynote speech on how the ICFO set a strategy for fisheries cooperators across the world, and stressed the importance of protecting fishing grounds, the livelihood of fishermen, and fisheries resources. He also thanked the leadership the KNFC has provided within the ICFO for sustainable fisheries.

Participating fisheries cooperators declared their dedication to improving the quality of life of fishermen and to creating a blue future for the fisheries giving The Fisheries Cooperators' Pledge to the Fishermen of the World.

Also, Professor Shin In-Sik from Agricultural Cooperative University gave a special lecture titled "Raising the co-operative value and a new path for fisheries co-operatives" to set fisheries cooperative on the right track.

World Fisheries Cooperative Day

The ICFO has emphasized that ICFO member organizations should share their expertise and experiences to overcome obstacles facing the fishing industry worldwide, such as climate change, fishing resources depletion and achieving a common prosperity for fisheries.

The ICFO and the KNFC jointly held an international symposium in 2010 to find a way to sustainably develop the fishing industry with the theme "The Role of Fisheries Cooperatives for Sustainable Fisheries". The symposium speakers and ICFO representatives adopted the "Seoul Declaration" calling upon stakeholders to protect marine environment with "World Fisheries Cooperative Day."

ICFO representatives unanimously designated June 16, when

the international symposium was held, as "World Fisheries Cooperative Day" during the 2010 ICFO General Assembly on 2 September 2010 in Beijing, China.

The ICFO held the 1st World Fisheries Cooperative Day annual celebration with support from the Korea National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives on 16 June 2011 in Seoul. The Prime Minister of Korea contributed to the success of the event through a video message pledging to support the exchange of fisheries cooperatives around the world.

In 2012, the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance(VCA) hosted the 2nd World Fisheries Cooperative Day on 16 June 2012 in Danang, the National Federation of Indonesian Fishermen's Cooperative Society(IKPI) hosted the 3rd World Fisheries Cooperative Day on 16 June 2013 in Surabaya, and the KNFC&the ICFO jointly hosted the 4th World Fisheries Cooperative Day on 16 June 2014 in Seoul.

ICFO Scholarship Program



War War Phoo (female, 41) from Myanmar and Fatma Ozgun Oncul (female, 24) from Turkey won this year's ICFO Scholarship Program under the Memorandum of Understanding to foster talent in the field of fisheries between the ICFO and Pukyong National University in Korea.

Four college graduates from three countries, Myanmar, Indonesia and Turkey, who majored in fisheries or fisheries-related fields had also applied for the scholarship. The ICFO and Pukyong National University made their final decision after a careful evaluation of their majors, English fluency, grades in college and other factors.

War War Phoo has been working at the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. She is highly knowledgeable in the area of aquaculture and has wide experience. Fatma Ozgun Oncul majored in Fisheries Engineering while at university. She was selected for her very specific career path, education objectives, and strong desire to be awarded the scholarship.

The fisheries scholarship program of the ICFO is very important as it is designed to promote the sustainable development of world fisheries and to nurture talent in the field of fisheries of developing countries. The Program is expected to provide the two awardees with fisheries education as well as opportunities to experience the Korean fisheries cooperative movement to take the lead in advancing global fisheries.

ICFO Foster Fisheries Talent in the Developing Countries

The ICFO is making great efforts to foster talent in the fisheries fields especially in underdeveloped countries.

The ICFO and Pukyong National University concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for nurturing talent in the field of fisheries, on 24 January 2014 at Pukyong National University, Busan, Korea.

The two organizations signed the MOU, mutually recognizing the need to build up human resource in the fisheries sectors in

developing countries for the sustainable development of fisheries and a vigorous cooperative movement around the world.

Pukyong National University launched a two year graduate course for two students from developing countries, who had completed university education in fisheries or fisheries-related fields. The ICFO plans to select two university graduates annually with the support from Pukyong National University. The tuition fee is fully funded by Pukyong National University. The ICFO offers scholarship benefits such as airfare and boarding expenses including daily expenses.

Membership Application

The ICA Extraordinary General Assembly, held in Rome on 5 - 6 June 2008, approved a proposed restructuring plan for the ICA, which had many implications for member participation in sectoral organizations, including the ICFO.

The ICFO had 28 member organizations from 24 countries before the ICA restructuring of 2008. After the restructuring, it lost 12 members.

ICFO has done its best to recruit members. Due to the ICFO's outstanding efforts, awareness of the ICFO has increased within the cooperative league. Thanks to this elevated awareness, Economic&Social Development Center of Palestine(ESDC) would like to have linkages with the ICFO so as to take advantage of the technical support of the ICFO. The ICFO received an application letter from the ESDC on 27 November 2014.

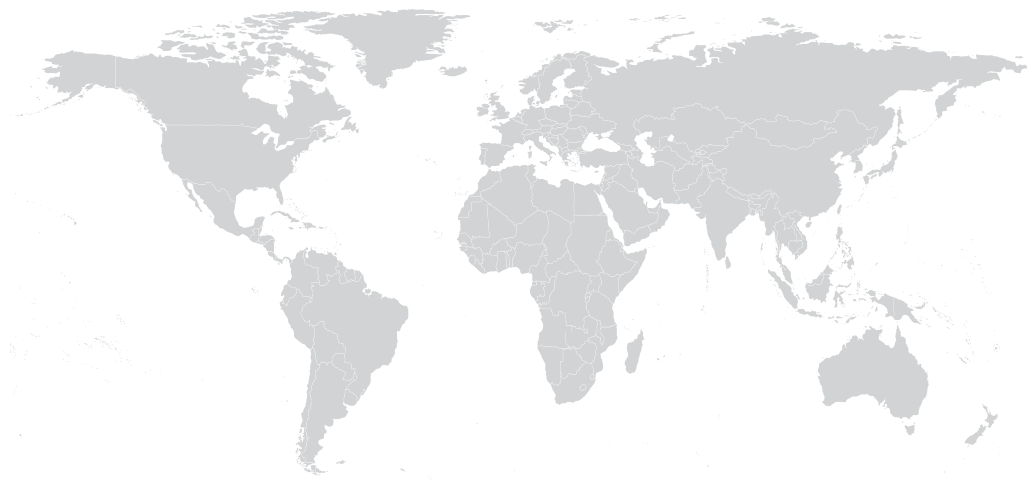
Mr. Mishra, the ICFO Vice-Chairman contacted the Maldives Fisherman Association(MFA) to enlist the MFA as an the ICFO members. The Maldives consisting of thousands of islands, has abundant fisheries resources and large numbers of annual tourists. In this sense, while there is huge potential for fisheries development, a well organized fisheries cooperative is currently absent in order to gain the expertise from the ICFO.

Accordingly, the MFA made a decision to become a member of the ICFO and sent its application letter to the ICFO on 3 January 2015. Because the organization was not already an ICA member, the ICA Membership Committee approved its application on 24 March 2015.

Even though Bolivia is a landlocked country, it has vast untapped natural resources, including fisheries resources. It has recently realized how important fisheries are as a main source of food supply. In this regard, National Confederation of Cooperatives of Bolivia(CONCOBOL) has made it a priority to make local cooperatives more active. In light of this plan, CONCOBOL is in need of the expertise and experts from the ICFO. The CONCOBOL sent a membership application letter to the ICFO on 22 January 2015.

According to ICFO rules, the Executive Committee approved the applications on 10 November in Antalya, Turkey.

The ICFO Secretariat will continue to recruit new members. Please notify the Secretariat of any potential organizations to join the ICFO.



Education and Training for Indian Fisheries Cooperators



Since ancient times, the fisheries have played a crucial role in sustaining human life by providing animal protein. But the world's fisheries are facing an unprecedented crisis caused by skyrocketing operating costs due to high oil prices, dramatic decreases in fishery resources, increasing maritime pollution and global warming due to industrialization.

It is also facing a variety of changes in the environment, in the opening of markets because of the WTO and FTAs, and the paradigm shifts of fisheries as a new age of global warming and low carbon green growth is ushered in.

However, fisheries in the future will become growth engines, as many experts expect a brighter future for the industry. In order to realize this, the fishing industry must share its expertise and experiences among fisheries cooperatives worldwide. Accordingly, the ICFO invited Myanmar government officials led by Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Minister, from the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries from 24-29 August 2015.

They had the opportunity to visit various fisheries facilities, such as the fish processing center of the KNFC, Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries, Pukyong National University specialized in fisheries, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, FRP shipyard, aquaculture farms, and a member cooperative of the KNFC to learn about the Korean fishing industry and the major business functions the KNFC has performed.

During their stay in Korea, the Myanmar Delegation took a deep interest in the advanced Korean fisheries processing center and consignment market. Those are key to reforming the Myanmar fishing industry and establishing a fisheries University which is designed to nurture experts in the field of fisheries and offer systematic education on fisheries.

It is expected that the visit to Korea will become a milestone for Myanmar in sparking development of its fishing industry and spread cooperative movement nationwide. It is also expected that the visit paved the way in transforming the current outdated system for sustainable fisheries and leads to the income growth of fishermen.

Cooperation with member countries



Mr. Lee Jong-Koo's presidency of the Korean National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives expired on the 24th of March. Pursuant to Article 8 of the ICFO, Mr. Kim Im-Kweon, Chairman of Large Purse Seine Fisheries Cooperatives, newly elected as 24th President of the KNFC, was to succeed him

Mr. Kim Im-Kweon, the new ICFO Chairman began his first journey, making it to Myanmar. The ICFO Chairman visited Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Central Cooperative Society, an ICFO members, to discuss on the development of member country's fisheries and the means of increasing the incomes of fishermen.

During his stay in Myanmar, Mr. Kim tried to seek support for the plan which is designed to bring sustainable fisheries to Myanmar through field trip and fisheries information sharing such as relates to resource status, the labor force, and fisheries facilities.

He also emphasized the need for fisheries cooperatives, which is a key to enhancing the incomes of fishermen in Myanmar. It is crucial that a model for fisheries cooperatives and infrastructure in Myanmar be set up to utilize and manage fisheries resources properly.

The ICFO introduced its various programs such as World Fisheries Cooperative Day, ICFO Scholarship Program, and The Korean Fisheries Cooperatives' Business Knowledge Sharing Program, etc. and asked them to participate in those program more active.



2015 ICFO Annual Meetings



2015 ICFO annual meetings (Executive Members Meeting and General Meeting) were held on 10 November in Antalya, Turkey. A total of 29 persons from 11 countries were present at the meetings.

The Executive Members Meeting and General Meeting were combined as one meeting because the agendas of two meeting are identical.

The ICFO members unanimously approved of Mr. Kim Im-kweon succeeding to the chairmanship as Mr. Lee Jong-koo's presidency expired last March.

3 new members; Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine, Maldives Fisherman Association, and The National Confederation of Cooperatives Bolivia were approved as a new ICFO member. Owing to 3 new members, the number of ICFO member has grown up from 22 organizations in 20 countries to 25 organizations in 23 countries.

Mr. Ramazan Ozkaya(Turkey), Saroj Kumar Sharma(Nepal), and Wibisono Wiyono(Indonesia) were elected as Vice chairman, Executive member, and Auditor respectively.

It was decided to hold World Fisheries Cooperatives Day every three years with the financial support of the ICFO as per the decision made by the ICFO General Assembly at Kobe in 2012. In the intervening years, each member cooperative holds the ceremony autonomously in a small way.

It is settled that 2016 ICFO Annual meetings will be held in India in 2016 where ICA Asia-Pacific General Assembly will be held.



World Fisheries

Although the fishing industry is crucial for feeding people in many countries, it is difficult to get accurate information on the industry. The ICFO believes that it is not possible to develop the fishing industry sustainably without reliable information and statistics.

The ICFO, therefore, published “World Fisheries” in 2015. This provides key trends, statistics and fisheries policies in major fishing countries to ICFO members, including Korea, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Norway, Portugal, Indonesia, etc. The ICFO Secretariat believes that this book will assist the development of member fisheries.