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Message from the Chairman

Dear Cooperators

I highly appreciate your outstanding leadership and cooperative spirit that have been playing a key role to contribute to world fisheries.

Since my inauguration in 2015, I have been doing my best efforts to revitalize fisheries cooperatives across the world through the ICFO.

The ICFO has been committed to the sustainable development of fisheries cooperatives by programs such as the "World Fisheries Cooperative Day" and education for fishermen and talent in developing countries. By devoting to all our member cooperatives, it is believed that the ICFO's efforts will pay off.

As an industry with long history starting from the beginning of human beings, fishery has been a driving force for people to lead an abundant life.

However, the world fisheries are facing a crisis such as illegal fishing, depletion of fisheries resources. It is time for fisheries cooperators to join forces and come up with an idea to resolve those issues.

Today, the world is paying closer attention to the oceans as food resources produced on land alone can't satisfy a rapidly growing population. With drastic changes occurring in the fisheries environment, it is vital for us to unite so as to make continuous contribution to the advancement of humanity.

I look forward to your active participation for continuous growth of the world fisheries and I hope that all of the ICFO members work together to open a new era of global fisheries development.

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

Yours Sincerely

Kim Im-kweon, ICFO Chairman



Cooperation with member countries



Mr. Kim Im-Kweon, the ICFO Chairman decided to put emphasis on cooperation with member countries. While Sri Lankan State Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development visited Korea in January 2016, the ICFO Chairman and the State Minister had a meeting on ways that the ICFO and Sri Lanka are able to cooperate the fisheries sector.

To make observations of Sri Lankan fisheries, the ICFO Chairman visited Sri Lanka from 13 June to 17 June 2016. While there, he held discussions with various people involved in the field of fisheries concerning the development of Sri Lankan fisheries and the means of increasing the incomes of fishermen.

While in Sri Lanka, the ICFO Chairman came up with support plan which is designed to bring sustainable fisheries to Sri Lanka through Korean fisheries experience and fisheries information sharing such as advanced fisheries technology, resources conservation, and fisheries facilities.

The ICFO Chairman also emphasized the need to set a good example of a fisheries cooperatives model with modernized infrastructure such as a processing center, a storage, freezer, etc. in Sri Lanka. Based on the model for fisheries cooperatives, the development of fisheries in Sri Lanka can ensue.

In addition, the ICFO introduced its various programs such as the ICFO Scholarship Program, and The Korean Fisheries Cooperatives' Business Knowledge Sharing Program, and encouraged robust Sri Lankan participation in such programs.



On a personal note, the ICFO Chairman and Woosung Construction Co., Ltd decided to make a donation of KRW 150,000,000 (USD128,000) towards a fishermen's housing project in Sri Lanka. When he visited Sri Lanka last January, he was told that Dilip Wedaarachchi, the Sri Lankan State Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, planned to build houses for fishermen with poor living conditions.

The ICFO Chairman agreed with the purpose of the housing project, believing that providing fishermen with better houses would lead to increasing catches and result in improving the Sri Lankan fishing industry.

He also shared details of the housing project with members of the Council of Korean Cooperatives. As members learnt details about the project, they hoped they could get involved.

The ICFO is planning to maintain a close relationship with member countries for co-prosperity and to perform activities according to the circumstances of member countries.

Publication of "The Fisheries Cooperative Movement in Korea"



The ICFO updated "The Fisheries Cooperative Movement in Korea" to be committed to sustainable fisheries and development of world fisheries cooperatives by sharing the expertise and experiences of the Korean National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives.

The ICA values this publication for its role in introducing the KNFC and providing information about its historical achievements. It has detailed how the KNFC has successfully positioned itself as one of the top cooperatives serving the national interest, contributing to national economic development, and facilitating the common growth of world fisheries cooperatives by sharing its knowledge and reinforcing its status in the global arena.

The book details the backgrounds, implementations, and the attainments of major KNFC projects, including the Exchanges between Cities and Fishing Villages, Instruction for Safe Operation, Fisheries Broadcast Station, Mutual Credit, Cooperative Insurance, Tax-exempt Oil, Consignment Sales, Fisheries Price Support Programs, and Fisheries Funds, etc.

Further, it suggests the ideals of what a cooperative should be, as a global economic alternative to the current situation in the pursuit of sustainable

development, and shows how and where it goes to strengthen the status of world fisheries cooperatives and to develop fisheries.

Therefore it will be stepping stone to informing the world of the nature of the Korean fisheries chairmanship of the ICFO and serve as a reference textbook for the development of fisheries cooperatives in developing countries and ICFO member countries by sharing details of the system of advanced Korean fisheries.

The ICFO Brochure Update



The ICFO published "The Fisheries Cooperative Movement around the World". It provides the full details of ICFO activities, including a brief history, achievements, etc. Since its establishment in 1966, when the ICA Agricultural Committee held its 7th meeting in Vienna, Austria. The ICFO Secretariat firmly believes that the publication will help raise awareness of cooperatives in the world.

ICFO Scholarship Program



Tulug Gulce Ataman (female, 28) from Turkey and Ye Pyae Naing (male, 26) from Myanmar 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.

Five college graduates from four countries, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Myanmar, and Nepal, who majored in fisheries or fisheries-related fields applied for this year's scholarship. The ICFO and Pukyong National University made their decision after a careful evaluation of such factors as the undergraduate majors of applicants, English fluency, grades in college and the like.

Tulug Gulce Ataman has been studying Fisheries Engineering at Ankara University. She was selected for her very specific career path, education objectives, wide range of experiences, and strong desire to win the scholarship. Ye Pyae Naing has been working at the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. While working as a government official, he has taken part in diverse research related to marine ecosystem. Moreover, he is highly knowledgeable in the area of aquaculture and has wide experience on resource management.

The fisheries scholarship program of the ICFO is very crucial since 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 Scholarship Program

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.

Education and Training for government officials from Sri Lanka



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 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 due to the TPP 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 Sri Lankan government officials to Korea from 26 September to 1 October 2016. Led by Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister, from the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, the group also included fishermen.

They had the opportunity to visit various fisheries facilities, such as the fish processing center of the KNFC, the 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.

While in Korea, the Sri Lankan Delegation was given a chance to share opinions with various experts engaged in the fisheries sector. Based on the discussion, it is believed that the government officials will consider how to apply what they learned in Korea to Sri Lankan fisheries when establishing policy.

It is also expected that the visit to Korea will become a breakthrough in sparking development of the fishing industry in Sri Lanka while spreading the cooperative movements nationwide. The visit paves the way of transforming the current outdated system towards sustainable fisheries, which will lead to the income growth of fishermen.

2016 ICFO Annual Meetings



2016 ICFO annual meeting (Executive Members Meeting and General Meeting) was held on 15 November in New Delhi, India. A total of 20 persons from 10 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. Vo Kim Cu succeeding to the Vice-chairmanship as Mr. Dao Xuan Can's presidency of VCA expired in Feb 2015.

During the meeting, the representatives of the ICFO member countries agreed to adopt "Statement of World Fisheries Cooperators on sustainable Fisheries" which aims to prevent illegal fishing across the world.

It is settled that 2017 ICFO Annual meetings will be held in Malaysia in 2017 where ICA General Assembly will be held.



Statement of World Fisheries Cooperators on a Sustainable Fisheries

All fisheries cooperators in the world call upon all countries in the world to heed the following statements so that the oceans, as the rich repositories of our food resources, can be safeguarded, and the fishing industry can be kept sustainable for the next generation.

We, fisheries cooperators express deep concern over the sharply decreasing marine resources and call for all countries in the world to actively engage in the development of the fishing industry by developing healthy fishing communities.

We, fisheries cooperators call for all countries to avoid indiscriminate fishing for the future development of the fishing industry and to join the global effort to manage and cultivate fisheries resources.

We, fisheries cooperators call upon every country to recognize the harm of illegal fishing and make an active effort to train and guide its people to avoid engaging in illegal fishing practices.

We, fisheries cooperators make partnerships with all countries and other international organizations, putting the ICFO at the center, to contribute to world peace based on the prosperity of the fishing industry.

November 15, 2016

Fisheries cooperators in the world