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Message from the Chairman

I truly appreciate your commitment to the development of world fisheries and cooperatives movement across the world.

Last March, I was elected as the 25th KNFC President representing fishermen in Korea. According to the ICFO Rules, I was to succeed to ICFO Chairmanship. It is a great honor to take this position representing fishermen across the world, at the same time, I feel a heavy responsibility.



The ICFO has been committed to the sustainable development of fisheries cooperatives by programs such as "World Fisheries Cooperatives Day" and education for fishermen and talent in the field of fisheries in developing countries.

However, world fishing industry is facing various challenges such as global warming, a decrease in population in fishing villages, and resource depletion. Due to such difficulties, no one can ensure the sustainability of fishing industry.

Nonetheless, I strongly believe if we work together centering on the ICFO, we can turn this crisis into an opportunity through this system of cooperatives, which is the most democratic and sustainable organization.

I look forward to your attention and participation for continuous growth of the world fisheries and I hope that all of the ICFO members put together to bring better fisheries community.

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

Yours Sincerely

Im Joon-taek
ICFO Chairman

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Im Joon-taek

Contact

Tel : +82 2 2240 0425
E-mail : newyork1@suhyup.co.kr

Meeting with President of the ICA



Ariel Guarco, President of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), Balu Iyer, Secretary General of the Asia Pacific region and the working group met with Im Joon-taek, Chairman of the ICFO, and discussed development plans for cooperatives and fisheries cooperatives.

At the meeting, after hearing about the operation performance of the Safe Fishing Operations, President Ariel Guarco said, "I was impressed with the systematic and modern system for the safe operation of Korean Fisheries Cooperative. It will be a good example for other countries."



He also highly appreciated the Korean Fisheries Cooperative for conducting various projects such as the Knowledge Sharing Program, World Fisheries Cooperative Day, and Fisheries Scholarship Program since Korea chaired the ICFO Secretariat in 2009, and expressed his gratitude ICFO Chairman who has been making efforts for the development of the global fisheries cooperatives.

The Korea Fisheries Cooperatives took the lead in designating June 16 as World Fisheries Cooperative Day at 2010 ICFO General Assembly in Beijing to protect fishermen's interests by activating the global fisheries cooperatives movement.

ICFO Scholarship Program



The ICFO and Pukyong National University concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for nurturing talent in the fisheries field, with the ICFO Chairman, President of Pukyong National University (PKNU), and other related participants in attendance on 24 January 2014, at Pukyong National University, Busan Korea.

Six college graduates from three countries, Turkey, India and Myanmar, who majored in fisheries or fisheries-related fields applied for the 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, and grades in college.

This year's scholarship program went to Elemana Yagmur and Atmaca Nazli from Turkey, Kumar Mrutyunjay from India, and Saw Peter Nyein from Myanmar. They arrived in Korea on 29 August 2019 and have begun their master's course, which will span the period from September 2019 to August 2021.

The fisheries scholarship program of the ICFO is very beneficial 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 four students from developing countries, who had completed university education in fisheries or fisheries-related fields. The ICFO plans to select four 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.

KSP Program for fishermen and staffs at fisheries cooperatives from Indonesia

The fisheries has made a huge contribution to human history in terms of providing animal protein. However, fisheries across the world has had trouble with a constant decrease in fisheries resources due to over fishing, global warming, and rapid industrialization.

Due to fisheries resources depletion, it has gotten fishermen to do fishing more competitively which may cause illegal fishing and damage fishing ground across the world.

However, fisheries in the future will become growth engines, as many experts anticipate 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 Fishermen and Staffs at Fisheries Cooperatives from Indonesia from 18 September to 21 September 2019.



KSP Program for fishermen and staffs at fisheries cooperatives from Indonesia

They had the opportunity to visit various fisheries facilities, such as the fish processing center of the KNFC, fishing telecommunication center of KNFC and fish market operated by KNFC to learn about the Korean fishing industry and the major business functions the KNFC has performed.

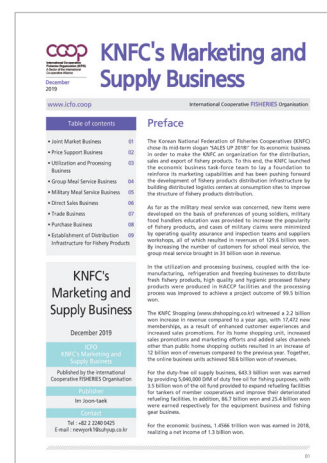
While in Korea, the delegation of Indonesia were given a chance to share opinions with various experts engaged in fisheries sector. Based on the discussion, it is believed that staffs at fisheries cooperatives will consider how to apply what they learned from Korea to fisheries of Indonesia when performing their work.

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



Publication of KNFC's Marketing and Supply Business

The ICFO published "KNFC's Marketing and Supply Business". The booklet introduces main business of Korean National Federation of Fisheries cooperatives, focusing on the field of Marketing and Supply such as Fisheries consignment, Joint market, Fisheries price support program, Fish markets owned by the KNFC. It is highly convinced that the publication will become a good example of those business area which is applicable to the ICFO member countries' business.



2019 ICFO Annual Meetings

2019 ICFO annual meeting (Executive Members Meeting and General Meeting) was held on 13 October in Kigali, Rwanda. A total of 16 persons from 7 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.

At the meeting, Im Joon-taek, Chairman of KNFC, was unanimously succeeded the chairmanship of the ICFO. He will act as the representative of fisherman around the world by 2021. Ramazan OZKAYA, Chairman of Central Union of Fisheries Cooperatives, Saroj Kumar Sharma, Chairman of Nepal Central Fishery Cooperative Union, and Wibisono Wiyono, Vice-Chairman of Indonesian Fishermen's Cooperative Societies were elected as vice chairmen, Executive Member, and auditor of the ICFO, respectively.

During the meeting, the representatives of the ICFO member countries agreed to adopt "Kigali Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries Industry" focusing on the main agenda such as actively supporting IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change); and designating 'World Fisheries food Safety Day'; and opposing the installation of offshore wind power to secure fishery resources, prohibiting the sea sand collection and eradicating illegal fishing to secure fishery resources; and developing seafood for new demand; and fostering inland aquaculture industry.

