

**REPORT ON THE AD-HOC WORKSHOP ON NETWORK BUILDING FOR
ESTABLISHING “ECONOMICS OF RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES”**

25 and 30 July 2004

Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Tokyo, Japan

By Rapporteur Suriyan Vichitlekarn

I. Introduction

1. The Ad-hoc Workshop on Network Building for Establishing “Economics of Responsible Fisheries” was organized by the Japan International Fisheries Research Society (JIFRS) on 25 and 30 July 2004 at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Tokyo, Japan. The Workshop was held as a pre-conference activity of the Twelfth Biennial Conference of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET 2004 JAPAN). The Workshop was attended by some of the participants of IIFET 2004 JAPAN.

2. The Workshop was organized to address the importance of “economics” with the view to support responsible fisheries. The Workshop also aimed to provide an opportunity for the participants of IIFET 2004 JAPAN to discuss the need and possible framework for network building for establishing “Economics of Responsible Fisheries.”

3. Prof. Dr. Yoshiaki Matsuda, President of JIFRS was appointed as the moderator of Workshop.

II. Background and Rationale

4. With the view to promote sustainable development of world fisheries, The “Responsible Fisheries” concept in line with the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) has been internationally accepted as the global framework providing principles for rectifying fisheries and aquaculture practices in a responsible and sustainable manner.

5. It was generally noted that there is still a big gap between the CCRF itself and effective implementation. The role of fishery economics was viewed as an important aspect which can clarify how responsible fisheries should be put into practices. However, economics aspects has so far been insufficiently integrated into the promotion of responsible fisheries. This calls for a need to promote network building for “Economics for Responsible Fisheries.”

III. Identification of Priority Issues of Responsible Fisheries

6. The Workshop identified priority issues according to major sub-sectors of fisheries that are of importance to the concept of responsible fisheries to be used as a basis for network building.

7. Priority issues of capture fisheries covering both in marine and inland waters, are:

- Resource depletion and environmental degradation

- Overcapacity and IUU fishing
- Ineffective management policy and framework including institutional arrangements
- Limited involvement and interaction among stakeholders – fishers, government, research & development, fish traders, independent groups including NGOs. This has close linkages with co-management at local, national and inter-country levels.
- Multiple water resource usage and habitat destruction. This issue gives an alarming signal particularly on fisheries in inland waters.

8. Priority issues of aquaculture are:

- Property rights, under the land tenure systems, for aquaculture
- Aquaculture management particularly in the integrated farming systems
- Bio-diversity losses due to culturing of exotic species
- Habitat degradation/destruction from aquaculture
- Participatory training and extension for poor farmers

9. Priority issues of processing, marketing, consumption and trade are:

- Supply chain management including quality & safety issues in response to the need for consumer access to quality and safe fish & fishery products
- Product design and development based on consumer behavior
- Logistical engineering
- Value added products
- International trade
- Role of consumers in fish and fishery products

10. Priority issues of institutional arrangement are:

- Institutional arrangement in line with open-access, limited entry and CBFM – each approach is different in terms of context and requirement of specific performance

11. There were views towards marginalization of the poor, women and children in taking actions of sustainable and responsible fisheries including co-management, governance, livelihoods, etc. This was due to the notion that those who capable, resource viable and political strong can gain benefit from these actions and not the poor, women and children. Suggestions were made to look holistically to bring all on board in achieving sustainable and responsible fisheries.

12. Balance between economic growth and environmental conditions should be given. There was a view indicating that in case of the developing countries the importance to be given to economic growth would be more important due to the demand for development of national economy as well as need for livelihoods of the people and poverty alleviation.

IV. Clarification of Scope, Framework and Mechanism of the Network of “Economics for Responsible Fisheries”

13. In promoting network building, the following aspects were singled out:

- Network should cover all sub-sectors of fisheries as guided by the CCRF;

- Economics aspect should be taken from the point of view of community not individual fishers;
- Considering the guiding principles set forth in the CCRF, the following concepts should be highlighted when promoting responsible fisheries--commitment, transparency, optimization, harmony, sustainability, participation, etc.
- Membership in the network should be based on individual or personal capacity not institutional.

14. Considering that there have been a number of good initiatives from the 'South' and there are networks existing only among the 'North', a suggestion was made to create a network of experts among the developing countries to share view and experience, which could bridge the development disparity among the 'North' and the 'South'.

15. Suggestions were made that network should provide advisory inputs, exchange of inputs and information at national, regional and international levels.

16. In conclusion, it was agreed that all participants present in this Workshop would be included into the network to be coordinated by JIFRS, which will set up a constitution and consolidate views on objectives, roles and functions of the network for finalization at the next biennial conference in 2006.

V. Closing of the Ad-hoc Workshop

17. The participants expressed appreciation to JIFRS particularly to Prof. Dr. Matsuda for organizing this Ad-hoc Workshop. Special thanks also went to all attending participants for their efforts and contributions extended to the Workshop.