

**Japan International Fisheries Research Society (JIFRS)  
Preface to the IIFET 2004 Japan Conference Proceedings:  
IIFET 2004 Japan: Success Story**

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**1. Who were the organizers of IIFET 2004 Japan?**

The International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET) was founded under the initiative of Dr. Richard S. Johnston, Professor of Agricultural and Resources Economics at Oregon State University, USA in 1982, to promote interaction and exchange between people from all countries and professional disciplines about marine resource economics and trade issues.

The Japan International Fisheries Research Society (JIFRS) was founded under the initiative of Dr. Yutaka Hirasawa, Professor at the Tokyo University of Fisheries, in 1982, to promote the study of international fisheries from a global perspective, and the exchange of information among its members. The first president of JIFRS was Professor Tadashi Yamamoto of Nihon University, who has been succeeded by Professor Yoshiaki Matsuda of Kagoshima University.

From the inception of IIFET, conferences have been held every two years, rotating countries and regions of the world. Often, organizers have been members of the faculty of a national university in the host country.

A successful series of IIFET conferences has been held at Anchorage in Alaska, USA (1982); Christchurch, New Zealand (1984); Rimouski, Canada (1986); Esbjerg, Denmark (1988); Santiago, Chile (1990); Paris, France (1992); Taipei, Taiwan (1994); Marrakech, Morocco (1996); Tromso, Norway (1998); Corvallis, Oregon, U.S.A. (2000); and in Wellington, New Zealand (2002).

**2. Who was involved in the implementation of the conference?**

IIFET's twelfth biennial conference, **IIFET 2004 Japan**, was held in Tokyo, Japan, with JIFRS as host organization. JIFRS is a tiny, voluntary society with only 120 members, scattered all over Japan. Though the lack of manpower needed to organize such a large and international conference was a great obstacle, JIFRS worked hard to identify the resources needed to host the conference, in a wide variety of ways. The conference's main supporter was Dr. Tadashi Yamamoto, who assisted Professor Yoshiaki Matsuda technically and financially to the maximum extent possible.

The conference required technical advice to establish online registration and abstract submission processes, and to provide information to potential participants around the globe. This assistance, rendered by Mr. Johannes Wilhelm, was vital; he developed an internet portal site for the conference, generating much of the information needed to run the conference in advance. In addition, he also assisted in the planning of our study tour for Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures. He is now a full time lecture at Akita University. For this reason, he was unable to participate in the conference.

An international conference of this scale requires a great deal of effort on the part of people behind the scenes. Mrs. Shoko Amano, the daughter of Dr. Yamamoto, and Mr. Hideya Suzuki, played a crucial role in arranging the use of the facilities of the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT), organizing the reception, coffee breaks, lunches and banquet dinner and entertainment. Mrs. Amano also supervised the student assistants at the conference.

### **3. Main Themes of the Conference**

The main conference theme was “What are Responsible Fisheries?” This subject provided a focal point throughout the conference, especially at its special sessions and closing symposium, as the question still remains unanswered and provides many practical problems throughout the world, despite the issuance by the FAO of its code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

### **4. Unique Aspects of the IIFET 2004 JAPAN Conference**

Although IIFET 2004 Japan built on the successful model employed by previous conference, in many ways it was quite unique; it added or developed many events in new and original ways. These new programs were received with great appreciation by all the participants, and included:

- Publication of the booklet “Japan and Her Fisheries”
- A three-day study tour to fish producing areas, viz. Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures
- A one-day study tour to fish consumption areas, focusing on the world famous Tsukiji Wholesale Fish Market
- Two pre-conference ad-hoc workshops (on networking for developing country participants, and the case study approach to fishery management training)

The main conference, July 26-29, featured:

- An opening ceremony with keynote speech by Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director General of FAO Fisheries Department
- Regular Paper Presentation Sessions
- Poster Sessions

- A series of special sessions focusing on particular problems prevailing throughout all countries in the world and a closing symposium
- A conference banquet featuring traditional Japanese entertainment, at which IIFET Prizes and the new Yamamoto Prizes were awarded
- Presentation of award-winning papers and summary reports of special sessions at a special plenary session
- A conference symposium on “What are Responsible Fisheries?”, with a keynote speech by Dr. Yasuhisa Kato, Special Adviser to SEAFDEC
- A post-conference ad-hoc workshop on research networking in developing countries, and a Q & A session on Japanese fisheries

All of these themes and programs were developed in a lengthy and involved planning process that began with the selection of JIFRS as the 2004 host, at the meeting of IIFET’s Executive Committee in Wellington, New Zealand during IIFET’s 2002 conference, and extended throughout the two year period leading up to July of 2004.

## **5. Financial Challenges Experienced During the Implementation of IIFET 2004 JAPAN**

The government of Japan was unable to provide hoped-for financial assistance; thus, financial matters provided a significant challenge. Our applications to several agencies including the Japan Foundation, Expo Foundation, Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSCS), the Ministry of Education, and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for financial assistance were in vain.

Nevertheless, we were able to secure a reasonable amount of financial assistance from the individuals and fisheries associations listed in the sponsors list in the “Contact Lists” section of these proceedings, which made it possible to run our conference. The total amount secured was approximately 43 million Yen (\$40,000 US dollars). In addition to these funds, we were extremely grateful to the US government (NOAA Fisheries) for providing a significant grant to the IIFET Secretariat for the publication of the proceedings of the IIFET 2004 Japan Conference.

In addition to the above financial assistance, several agencies very graciously provided help in kind. This was the case for the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT), which made all facilities of its Shinagawa campus available at a reasonable cost. Without these facilities, we would have been unable to organize such a large scale conference with the limited financial resources available. The newly-constructed Rakusui Hall was used as the head office of the conference and also as the site for the poster session and exhibition, while several classroom buildings and the campus cafeteria provided venues for conference sessions and lunch.

## **6. Balanced Representation of Participation Between Developed and Developing Countries**

Generally, the balance of participation in IIFET conferences has weighed heavily in favor of developed countries, despite significant efforts to support developing country participants by past organizers. However, with some JIFRS financial assistance to participants from developing countries, combined with support from several other agencies including the USAID-funded Pond-Dynamics/Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program, the WorldFish Center, and others, the IIFET 2004 conference was able to achieve a very healthy representation of participants from developing countries.

JIFRS offered financial assistance directly or indirectly to 96 participants from developing and low-income countries. As a result, of the 518 participants, 140 (27%) were from developed countries other than Japan, 156 (39%) were from developing countries (mainly Asia and Africa) and 222 (43%) were from Japan. Thus, the representation between developed countries excluding Japan and developing countries was well balanced. The number of participants from Japan, naturally, comprised a significant proportion of the total (43%).

In terms of the types of institutions with which participants were affiliated, of the 518 participants, 246 (47%) were educational institutions (mostly universities), 26 (5%) were from research institutions, 124 (24%) were from private industry, 91 (18%) were from government agencies and 22 (4%) were from international organizations. The remaining 8 were from other institutions. Thus, from this viewpoint as well, the IIFET 2004 Conference was fairly well balanced.

## **7. Special Sessions and Symposium Were Highlights of IIFET 2004 Japan**

IIFET 2004 Conference provided a series of special sessions and a symposium in parallel with the regular paper presentation sessions. For every special session we allocated a half-day. During the first 100 minutes of the special sessions, the chair and panelists shared their ideas and experiences; the second 100 minutes provided time for participants to discuss and interact about their own problems, experiences and proposals.

Under this structure, speeches made by chairs and panelists served to trigger participants' sharing of their own experiences. The latter half of the sessions provided surprisingly lively discussions, to an extent that we, the planners, had not expected. The voices and ideas of the participants thus became the most significant products of IIFET 2004 Japan, which, we hope, will provide a model for similar conferences in the future. The reports prepared by Mr. Surian Vichitlekarn, the conference rapporteur, provide an unexpected highlight of the IIFET 2004 conference and these proceedings.

A word of acknowledgement is appropriate here, both to Mr. Vichitlekarn, and to SEAFDEC, his agency, for providing his time both to attend the conference and report on the opening session, special sessions,

symposium, and pre and post conference workshop, and later to revise and summarize the discussion. His reports may be found in these proceedings under the “Reports and Summaries” topic, and will provide a useful impression of the discussions to readers.

#### **8. Keynote Speeches by Ichiro Nomura of FAO and Yasuhisa Kato of SEAFDEC**

We are most grateful and proud to have had the opportunity to present extremely useful and interesting keynote speeches from Mr. Nomura and Mr. Kato, which greatly enhanced the outcomes of our special sessions and symposium. In response to our request, they were kindly able to share their precious time with conference participants at their own expense. Their important contributions and unique perspectives will be long remembered by all participants.

#### **9. Additional Acknowledgements**

Last, but not least, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the participants, our staff, and the organizations behind the scene whose voluntary efforts were indispensable in making this conference successful.

We would like also extend our utmost thanks to Mrs. Ann Shriver, Executive Director of IIFET for her endless administrative and technical advice. We were fortunate, with the assistance of the Japan National Tourist Organization, to be able to invite her to Tokyo a year prior to the conference.

We were also most grateful to be able to invite Professor Richard S. Johnston, the founder of IIFET, and Dr. Parzival Copes, a world-famous specialist in the field of fisheries management, to participate in IIFET 2004 Japan, with the support of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO).

#### **10. Appreciation from Participants and Others**

Immediately following the conference, we received uncountable expressions of congratulation and appreciation from many participants and others for the success of IIFET 2004 Japan. This gratifying response made the effort put forth to plan and carry out the conference very worthwhile, and is much appreciated by the organizers.