

**INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS**

# **GLOBAL FISHERIES TRENDS AND THE FUTURE OF FISHWORKERS**


**Report of the International Conference  
of Bangkok - Thailand - 22/27 January 1990**

# REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BANGKOK (THAILAND) - JANUARY 1990

## Summary

- Introduction ..... p. 2
- Report of the Conference :
  - Opening ceremony ..... p. 3
  - Presentations on the Conference theme ..... p. 3
  - Other official presentations ..... p. 5
  - Fishworkers organisations ..... p. 9
  - Workshops ..... p. 15
  - Audio-visuals and Exposure Programme ..... p. 17
- Final Statement ..... p. 18
- List of participants ..... p. 21
- Written contributions ..... p. 24

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# INTRODUCTION

Hosted by the Kasetsart University of Bangkok (Thailand) the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) conducted an International Conference on :

## *"Global Fisheries Trends and the Future of Fishworkers"*

The Conference was officially inaugurated on January 22, 1990. Present at the Conference were over 100 participants composed of fishworkers, community organisers, academics and some fishery officials. Together they represented 28 countries from five different continents. The Conference met at a juncture when the trends in the fisheries sector point to the imminent likelihood of major changes at the international level. These emerging changes arise not only from within the fisheries sector, but are also precipitated by pressures of ongoing development processes in the other sectors of the economy.

The most important changes are :

- \* the redeployment of industrial fleets of the developed countries into the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of developing countries, following the depletion of fish stocks in Northern waters and the signing of agreements with Southern countries as a result of the implementation of the new Law of the Sea,
- \* the industrial development of aquaculture,
- \* the reorientation of world fish markets linked with the rising demand from Northern countries,
- \* financial aid mainly geared towards capital intensive industrial fisheries,
- \* pollution issues generated by productionist patterns of economy,
- \* the development of tourism damaging coastal areas, etc...

All these factors threaten in the long run to destroy irreparably the aquatic cycle which is the basis of life on our planet. In the near future, these changes will affect the sustainability of fisheries, the survival of fishworkers and the nutritional standards of millions in developing countries.

All these vital questions concern us all not only those who care for the survival of artisanal fisheries and the future of the profession, but all of us concerned with the survival of humanity at large. This grave situation brought us all together at Bangkok, to discuss the various issues at stake and to find ways and means to redress the situation and to find strategies for the future.

The conference programme was structured so as to provide a balanced view of the trends in the fisheries sector from the perspective of scientists, policy makers and fishworkers.

The pivotal points introducing the theme of the Conference were presented in two major interventions. Followed by several presentations treating more specific aspects, such as: fishing legislations, world fish trade, aquaculture, the issue of motorisation and outside investments.

Much time and consideration was given to fishworkers organisations and the main points for discussion were taken up in the various workshops divided according to the different continents.

Finally an entire day was set aside for an exposure programme to learn in the field some aspects of Thai fisheries, in particular the large-scale aquaculture development projects.

This report does not attempt to provide an exhaustive description of the many points put forward by the participants. For a more detailed account of the many interventions we like to refer to the list of papers presented at the Conference on p.24 and to the articles published earlier in our SAMUDRA - DOSSIER Nr 3 of January 1990 (This Dossier is available at the Liaison Office, Brussels at the cost of 6 US \$).

# REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

## Opening ceremony

The Conference was officially inaugurated by Professor Dr. Sutharm AREEKUL, rector of the Kasetsart University. Amporn SUGANDHAVANIJ, ICSF Animation Team member, welcomed the participants. In the opening address, Pierre GILLET, speaking in the name of the International Collective, thanked the University for hosting the Conference and noted the University's concern for the rural people and the small producers and the important role they play within the national economy.

He also pointed out that the ICSF grew out of the interaction between community workers, social scientists and fishworkers from many parts of the world, the first initiative being taken in 1984 with the organisation of an international Conference of fishworkers and their supporters in Rome. The main aim of this conference : to make the fisheries policy makers understand that fishworkers must be central to the planning and implementation of fisheries development and management. The mandate in Rome was for fishworkers to strengthen their own national organisations while the supporters were urged to create appropriate fora for supportive action. This resulted in the formation of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers in Trivandrum (India) in 1986.

The Collective is today composed of over 30 individual members representing 23 countries. The priorities of the three first years were :

- 1- a programme to monitor and document global issues affecting fishworkers.
- 2- exchanges between fishworkers and scientists with priority to South - South exchange.
- 3- a communication network consisting primarily of publications arising from the above two programmes.

Pierre Gillet highlighted briefly the main changes taking place in the fisheries world today and underlined that this conference intends to address these issues. He concluded by greeting the numerous Thai fishworkers present on behalf of the participants from Latin America, North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific.

## Presentations on the Conference theme

Before handing over the chair to the other speakers, John Kurien, of the Centre for Development Studies at Trivandrum (India) and chairman of the days session, pointed out that: *'The oceans of the world unite us, while the earth*

*borders divide us'*. He further added : *"New alignments will appear in the 1990's, just as the Law of the Sea showed that countries from different camps reached agreements "*.

### THE FUTURE OF FISHWORKERS : AUTONOMY OR SUBMISSION

In his opening speech, Humberto CHAMORRO ALVAREZ , fishworker and president of the National Council of Artisanal Fishermen of Chile (CONAPACH), pointed out the enormous problems facing the profession today, leaving the workers with only two alternatives: autonomy or submission.

*"The future of small-scale fishermen the world over could be compromised, he underlines, if unhappily, we do not undertake a serious struggle for the defence of resources and for the survival of our occupation"*. The fishworkers from Chile have set an example. We have been able to establish from 1986 onwards a national union organisation representing 100 grass root organisations from all over the country. The aims of the union is twofold, on the one hand to defend the rights of the Chilean fishworkers and on the other hand constitute a real representation at the level of decision making in such a way that democracy may be safeguarded.

*"As fishermen, we are also beacons of the sea, because we detect the dangers that await our various resources. We know that pollution from cities, industries, mines and farming is very high in a number of countries, and that it affects life and the marine species that are the resources of our business"*. In this way fishworkers have an important role to play in resource management and the protection of the environment.

But their existence is not without difficulties, artisanal fishermen are faced with many problems: mass dispersion along the coast line, the absence of proper services to satisfy the needs of their families because of their marginalisation, enormous dependence on creditors, merchants, local politicians, cultural tensions, and the exploitation due to bad international trade relations imposed by industrialised countries...

How do we face these challenges? How do we build the future?

In the first place it is essential to have a solid organisation of fishworkers. Nothing good can be accomplished without such an organisational base. But, insists Chamorro, the organisation must be born of ourselves, without outside intervention or dependence. Our organisa-

tion must be democratic, it must facilitate the participation of all its members at all levels of the decision making process through various types of committees. The organisation must contribute to economic, social and cultural development.

Coming now to the question of resource management and the protection of the environment. *"We must watch over our resources and be in close contact with the scientists who can cooperate and exchange their experience and knowledge with us"*. The fishworkers must actively participate in the decision making at all levels of the fisheries policy making. Their views have to be taken in consideration by the authorities. They must be given the right to express their concern and demands and their rights must be respected in the face of industrialists and businessmen.

Finally, according to him, fishworkers must find means to establish an autonomous organisation representing all members of the profession at an international level.

### **THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ON THE FISHWORKERS**

Nalini NAYAK, coordinator of the ICSEF, presented next a very realistic picture of the many recent development strategies threatening the future of fishworkers.

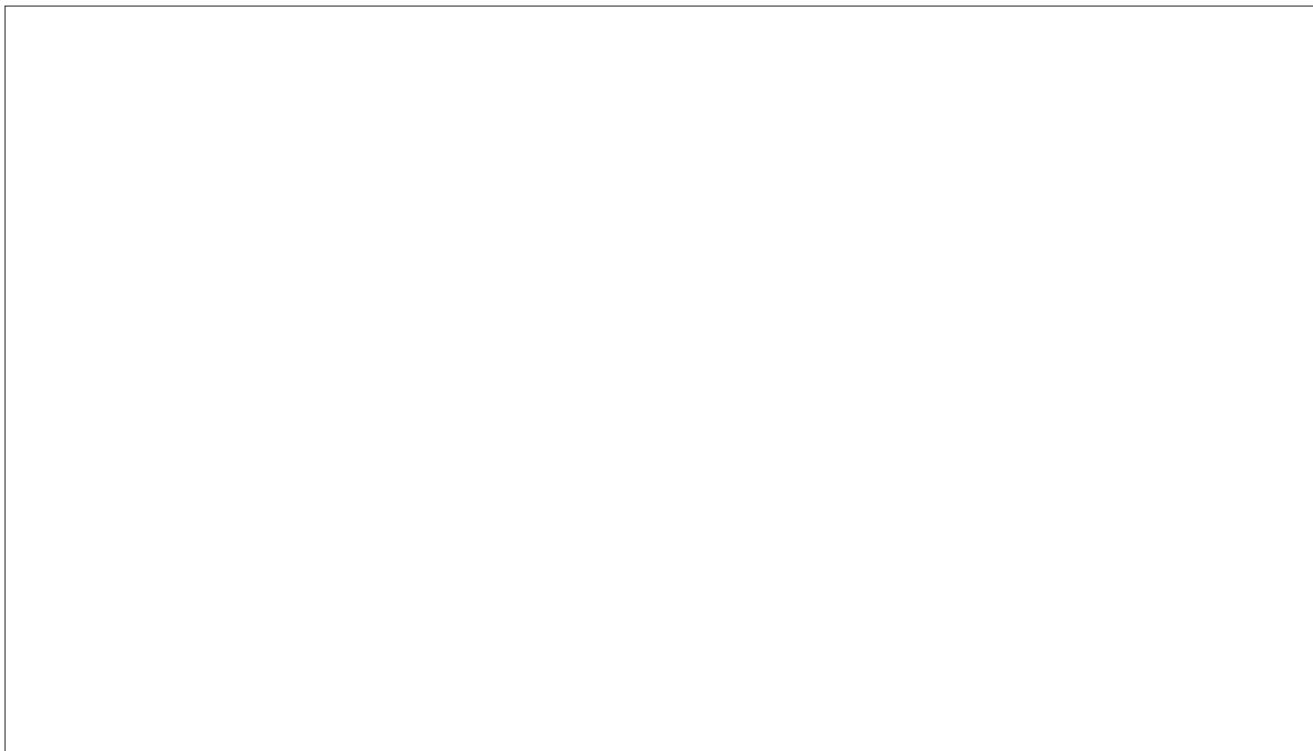
*"In many ways, she points out, we are today facing historic cross roads"*. These recent trends raise many

questions. It is essential to analyse and make an evaluation of the fisheries sector taking into account global development trends not directly related to this sector but nevertheless bearing upon the activities of the sector and the lives of the fishworkers.

In 1989 the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) of India undertook a month long national coastal march, covering over 5.000 km. Many thousands of people gathered for this march to highlight the problems of ecological pollution. The success of the march was the result of a growing awareness from the fishworkers of the fact that the depletion of fish resources is a phenomenon which has to do with the adverse effect on the eco-cycles caused by the use of over efficient technology, the urban and industrial pollution of the waters and more broadly, the greed of capital to reap fast profits.

Most of the new issues relate to displacement of small-scale fishworkers in the name of land based development for the sake of tourism. The working beaches have to be converted into tourist resorts, forcing entire fishing communities to migrate, depriving them of their mains of existence. *"Large scale displacement is also taking place in the name of nuclear installations which carry with them the danger of radiation health hazards"*.

The wild depletion of the forests and the indiscriminate clearing of the mangroves and turning them into prawn fields, has also its grave impact on the the lives of the fishworkers.



*Left to right: Humberto Chamorro Alvarez, John Kurien and Nalini Nayak*

The problem of oil spills, the dumping of toxic waste in the seas, the installation on the coast of defence installations, are other issues that affect them and on which local populations have little scope for protest.

Women are particularly victimised by these modern technological developments. Besides ousting them from the labour force they are relegated to their homes where their labour is not remunerated. *“Today in the third world especially, we see how the processes of privatisation threaten the subsistence economies and there by increase the burden on women... In Southern countries women have to bear the burden of indebtedness accrued by the fishworkers”*, she underlines.

All this production for the market is becoming increasingly capital intensive and finally makes meeting daily needs more and more difficult. It is time we begin to think more in terms of nurturing fisheries. A model of sustainable development must incorporate the task of nurturing life; in fisheries this means the renewal of aquatic eco-systems and the respect for life as a whole.

## Other official presentations

### **FISHING LEGISLATION AND INTER-GEAR CONFLICTS IN COASTAL WATERS : EXPERIENCE OF JAPAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.**

Sebastian MATHEW, Economist, fisheries researcher from Kerala State (India), presented a synthesis of a recent study he undertook on fisheries legislations and gear conflicts in various Asian countries. (\*)

The history of fisheries development has always been a history of conflicts between gear-groups. Recently these conflicts have been reinforced because of conflicts arising from pollution of coastal waters, deforestation, destruction of mangroves, etc... However the response of majority of fishermen have been more or less directed against over-efficient fishing methods, particularly trawling.

These conflicts are often related to various factors: ethnic, decline in share of total catch, encroachment of foreign trawlers, social factors.

The response of the State to these conflicts is through enactment of legislations. This gesture is more common when there is intense articulation of protest. Such was the case in Indonesia and Malaysia. Where the expression of protest is defused and feeble the legislation at best remains an exercise in rhetoric.

At present with the exception of Thailand, all countries in this region claim that the twin-objective of legislation are management of conflicts and resources. The principal method adopted for this purpose is the zoning arrangement. Indonesia has gone even a step or two ahead by banning trawling in waters dominated by traditional geargroups. Even though some fishermen benefited from the ban, little is done to reorganise the fishery for sustainable harvesting of resources.

The Philippines is perhaps the only country in the world where the rights of the subsistence fishermen to the preferential use of fish resources are guaranteed by Constitution. However, precious little is done to ensure this. There is less tension between trawlers and traditional gear-groups because the coastal waters are overfished to the extent of functioning as a disincentive for the trawlers!

The legislative process has never been comprehensive enough to make provisions that are truly effective. This is largely due to the absence of discussions with conflicting gear-groups at the formulation stage and the lack of an attempt to disseminate the content of various provisions after enactment of the law.

Japan seems to offer the best solution as far as conflict management is concerned. This is largely due to the fact that the marine sector is an integral part of the ambit of law. However, Japan like other countries, also finds it difficult to prevent excessive overcapitalisation of the fishery and overfishing of resources in spite of the drastic decline in her fisheries workforce. One lesson from Japanese experience which is perhaps of greater relevance is the promotion of face-to-face dialogue between conflicting groups. Instead of keeping the conflicting parties separate and the State mediating between, it is better to bring them together for arriving at a consensus.

Sebastian Mathew concluded that, only overall economic development will lessen the pressure on fisheries leading to amelioration of inter-gear conflicts.

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\* This study was published in English as SAMUDRA-Monograph Nrl, January 1990. This publication is available at the ICSF - Liaison Office, 65 rue Grétry, Brussels.

## **WORLD FISH TRADE : CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FISHWORKERS.**

Kevin CREAN, Deputy Director of the Humberside International Fisheries Institute of the University of Hull in Great Britain, highlighted the fact that during the last three decades there has been a steady increase in the fish supply. *“It is predicted that demand will significantly exceed supply in the year 2000 and the fishworkers of the world will find a ready market for their fish produce providing they can guarantee good quality and consistent supply. Market penetration will be one of the major constraints to be overcome and the role of government will be a key factor influencing the contribution of fishworkers to world trade”.*

However, in many countries conflicts have in recent years arisen due to the need of governments to promote the export of fish to earn foreign exchange to the detriment of fish supplies available for local consumption.

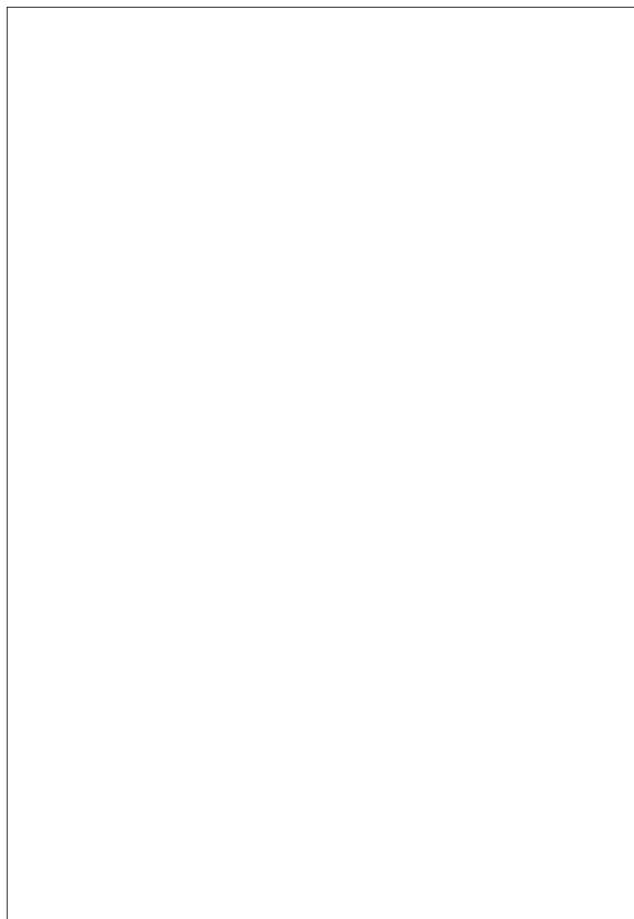
The boundaries of the world fish trade have been literally redrawn with the establishment of the Exclusive Economic Zones. This process has brought about redistribution of the rights of access to the world's fish resources. Conflicts of interest have in recent years arisen in coastal waters where the traditional artisanal fishing activities must now compete not only with more industrialised operations but also with aquaculture and tourism.

The demand for fish and fish products has increased steadily over the last three decades. Nevertheless, the difference in the level of consumption between developed and developing countries remained practically the same. The per capita consumption in the industrialised world is 3.5 times more than in poor countries : and this trend is likely to continue.

Many factors influence the increased demand for fish : population and income growth, prices on the international market, generic promotion campaigns, quality demands... According to FAO (1987) estimations, an increase of 19 million tons of fish will be required by the year 2000 to meet the combined effects of population and income growth. The catch of underexploited species, cephalopods (like squid for example), may provide great potential. This, however, will bring with it particular problems such as consumer resistance for example.

Fishworkers organisations can play an important role in world fish trade, as is the case in Great Britain, Spain, Hong Kong and the Solomon Islands.

But to succeed, the fishworkers have to set some parameters to ensure a steady supply of fish, through the creation of



*At a fish market of Bangkok*

producers organisations, the establishment of mechanism in order to play an active role in the production chain, securing working relations with the government and the setting up of training programmes.

## **AQUACULTURE TODAY: CHANCES AND HAZARDS OF THE BLUE REVOLUTION.**

For Hector Luis MORALES, sociologist from Chile and coordinator of CEDIPAC (\*), the “Blue Revolution” shows many parallel trends as the “Green Revolution” in agriculture and modern animal production. This ‘revolution’ not only entails major changes at the level of production but creates at the same time new relationships between man and nature.

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\* CEDIPAC : Centre for the Study, Development and Research of Small-Scale Fisheries in Chile.

Aquaculture in Chile, for example, caused soaring land prices and new dependency on foreign inputs. But the new market opportunities called for the establishment of specific infrastructures.

The creation of aquacultural activities bring with it many difficulties, in particular problems related to the environment and the repercussions they may have on the local economy and food supplies for the local populations. Nevertheless, a balance of forces can be found.

Following a description of some significant achievements of aquaculture, H.L. Morales proposes some important aspects to be considered in the social development of aquaculture:

- the first and most important point is to know how to select the species or resources to be used
- another major challenge is the choice of the technology to be used in cultivating the resource selected
- it is important to know where to work in order to protect the ecology and the environment
- you have to know whom you are producing for and for whom you work.

Prawn culture in coastal areas endangered the existence of coastal ecosystems specially mangroves, which are of great importance to the natural reproduction of many valuable fish species and crustaceans. Large-scale aquaculture projects replaced animal breeding, such as pork and chicken farms, but also paddy fields, of such vital importance for the local food requirements. Nevertheless, remarks H.L. Morales, there is a tendency for the cultivation of more popular species to satisfy the needs of local populations. This is the case in Chile, thanks to a stricter control over production by community organisations.

It is important to organise resistance against particular policies which use aquacultural produce exclusively for export. In Bangladesh, for example, the World Bank has invested huge amounts of money and imposed restrictive measures in favour of prawn culture destined for export.

Aquaculture should not be rejected entirely, even if in many cases it has been a failure and has put a heavy tax on society and the ecological balance. *“The Blue Revolution, concludes H.L. Morales, has its negative and its positive aspects. Participation in technical and economic development, through vocational training, must be an occasion for rational and integrated management of its potential with the objective of ensuring the right of future generations to enjoy the products of nature as a legacy to their countries”*.

## **THE FUTURE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN SENEGAL : TECHNOCRATIC APPROACH AND INEQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

Aliou SALL, sociologist, fisheries consultant for CRE-DETIP (Centre for Fisheries Research, Development and Intermediate Technology) of Dakar (Senegal), gives an account of the situation and the evolutions of fisheries in his country. He demonstrates, how in a country with such an exceptionally rich and varied marine resource base, the Government has put forward a fisheries development policy aiming at improving the living conditions of the fishermen and a more rational supply of fish to the population through the implementation of two objectives : a generalised policy of motorisation and the establishment of distribution networks. Unfortunately the implementation of these policies did not involve efficiently the active population concerned.

The fisheries sector in Senegal plays an important role within the national economy. The artisanal fisheries sector, including related activities, provides 150.000 jobs, against 1.500 employed in industrial fisheries. The contribution to the export of fisheries products from the artisanal sub-sector can not be under-estimated.

The introduction of the CAMP (Campaign for the Motorisation of Pirogues) in 1972 and the CAPAS projects (Fish marketing Centres) heralded a significant supportive action from the side of the Senegalese government to promote the development of artisanal fisheries.

*“The CAMP project, underlines A. SALL, had to face many difficulties mainly because of the technocratic approach, the abuse of power and breach of confidence by the office bearers of the project”*. Added to this are the many problems escaping the direct control of the CAMP: the rigidity of rules in the functioning of the out-board motor repair shops, the rise of social inequality in day to day life of the fishermen’s cooperatives, the inability of the fishermen to repay their dues in fixed instalments, the fact that some agents of the CAMP abuse their power and engage themselves in fraudulent practices.

For what the CAPAS project is concerned, it became clear that from the start the actual beneficiaries of the project, those artisanal fishermen lacking adequate facilities and infrastructure to market their produce, had to face severe marginalisation. The key positions being in hands of technocrats made serious abuse of their power at the cost of the artisanal fishermen. Little by little the government withdrew from the scene in favour of privatising CAPAS centres.

To these internal problems have to be added those pro-



blems arising from the fact that Senegal has signed many fishing agreements with foreign countries in order to secure exchange earnings, "In spite of the exclusive zones for industrial fleets, A. Sall continues, many trawlers operate illegally in the zones set aside for restricted use of artisanal fishery. These violations occur at night, with all lights switched off. Such practises cause serious economic losses for the artisanal fishermen : destruction of nets, damages and even death due to collision by trawlers and traditional boats, not to mention the wastage of resources..."

What are the prospects for the future?

Reality has shown that beyond economic issues there are other factors; social, political and cultural, to be considered by the government. In view of this the Senegalese fishermen have decided to form their own autonomous organisation. The National Collective of Senegalese Fishermen, started in 1987, has now a membership of 1.800. "Fishworkers organisations, concludes A. Sall, become today indispensable factors in any efficient fishery policy".

### **SMALL-SCALE FISHERMEN AND THE THREAT OF OUTSIDE OWNER-INVESTORS.**

In his intervention, Jean-Philippe PLATTEAU, professor in economy at the Notre Dame de la Paix University of Namur (Belgium) describes the difficulties faced by artisanal fishermen in getting access to credit and insurance.

The formal insurance sector finds it difficult to insure small-scale fishermen against risks of accident at sea or damage to equipment. This is so because of many different reasons, among others, the difficulty in getting access to information on small-scale fishing units. "In the small-scale fishing sector, argues J.P. Platteau, the problems of adverse selection (only the less reliable fishermen subscribe to insurance), and especially the problem of moral hazard (less care is taken in the management of insured equipment) are considerable... The premiums to be applied would be so high that no fisherman would be willing to pay them"

For the small-scale fishermen, a frequent means used to overcome the insurance problem consists in establishing privileged relations with a dealer who, based on his personal knowledge of the fishermen, often agrees to cover certain risks at a reasonable price, this means in most cases the privileged right to the fishermen's catches.

Similarly, he may approach the same dealer for credit. "In case he grants credit, repayment will be obtained from a predetermined share of the daily catches, so that the length of repayment will vary according to changes in the future economic situation of the fisherman". Both the credit and the insurance system become interrelated systems. The money lender acquires, in this way, an advantageous knowledge of the fisherman's situation, allowing a considerable reduction in the coverage against risk. This knowledge performs at the same instance an equivalent functional role as a conventional guarantee.

J.P. Platteau suggests that because their situation is privileged in terms of information, local small-scale fishermen's organisations are ideally placed to take the initiative to develop informal and organisational mechanisms for credit and insurance. They could, for example, create : "collective saving schemes within communities of small-scale fishermen ("tontines"), in which a fixed share of the catch would be automatically set aside for savings".

Fishermen's associations can also facilitate their members access to institutional credit. An initiative of this kind was recently set up in Senegal, for example.

Similar associations can also play an important role in mutual assistance. Various successful initiatives of sea rescue associations do exist.

"Different types of organisations also focus on reducing the risks linked to daily variations in income so that an unfortunate owner would not have to sell his equipment to deal with a temporary cash problem. Very effective mutual credit schemes, were observed in some fishing communities in Kerala (India), these enabled the fishermen to achieve a relative stable consumption stream preventing fluctuating incomes from translating into fluctuating consumption levels. The loans were granted free of interest (even though the accumulated amount was sometimes considerably high) but mutual obligation was required should an other member of the community find himself in financial need".

## **Fishworkers organisations : strategies and constraints**

An entire day of the Conference was set aside for the representatives of fishworkers organisations to give a presentation of their organisation. These presentations permitted a general view of the significant organisational achievements in each continent. The outcome was very positive. Considerable progress was made since the Rome Conference in 1984, the result of these developments are a source of hope in meeting the enormous problems faced by the artisanal fisheries sector.

### **ASIA**

#### **India**

The fisheries law voted in 1982/83 was never seriously implemented because of the lack of a truly representative organisation able to pressurise the government.

There is a need for such an organisation to consolidate and coordinate the many local fishworker's struggles on a national level. The many existing local fishworkers organisations find it difficult to act united. The National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) tries to bring together these isolated groups.

At this point it is worth mentioning that in April - May 1989 the NFF together with its affiliated unions, voluntary agencies and ecological groups organised a massive Coastal March down the western and eastern coasts. Under the slogan "*Protect Waters, Protect Life*", the marchers moved along to draw attention to the threat to survival caused by pollution, destruction of the environment, and the water problem in general.

In spite of the armed assault by the police, the march has revealed the potential of the masses to defend and protect their environment as an essential element for human survival and the future of fishworkers.

The South India Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) has been able to introduce new fishing boats and techniques, thus improving the security at sea and initiating new training schemes.

#### **The Philippines**

The Filipino fishworkers presented with the help of various media (posters, drawings, flip-charts, songs and music) a very clear picture of the history of their organisations and the stages through which their conscientisation grew.

The Philippines went through many severe political upheavals, during the 80s, culminating in the collapse of the dictatorial regime. The repressions characterising these authoritarian regimes brought with them a gradual awakening of peoples power giving the poorer sections of society the impetus to reverse the process of marginalisation and to finally reinstall democracy.

In May 1973, the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between Japan and the Philippines was ratified allowing Japanese investors to undertake their businesses in the country. In 1975, a Fisheries Decree was signed, paving the way for the export of marine resources and a policy design to make the fishery sector a profitable and lucrative source for investments. This trend inevitably caused the marginalisation of the fishing communities.

The negative conditions brought about by the Marcos decree developed into a potent awareness of solidarity that resulted into the unfolding of many fishworkers organisations and movements. Thus emerged CALARIZ, a Confederation of fishworkers organisations located in the Southern Luzon area.

With the return of democracy, the Confederation of CALARIZ in collaboration with the Family Centre of the Asian Social Institute, organised a national movement of small fisherfolk called BIGKIS-LAKAS. After two years of consultation at the base, CALARIZ and BIGKIS-LAKAS drafted in 1988 an *alternative fisheries Code*.

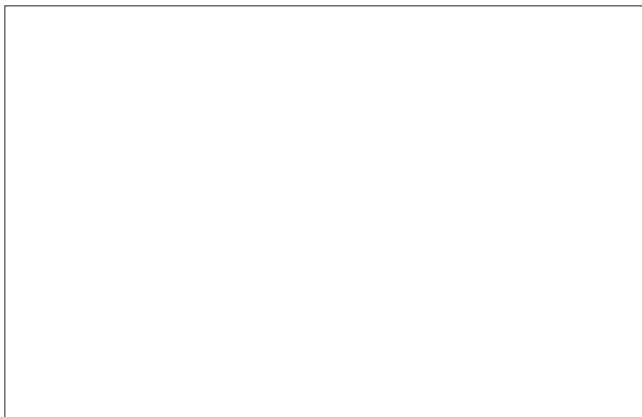
The Fisheries Code, presently in hands of the Senate, was the result of numerous deliberations by a National Congress of Small Fishermen which constituted a powerful lobbying group. The Fisheries Code (Senate Bill 711) is to replace the repressive and discriminatory provisions formulated in Decree 704. The new Code includes among others:

- 1 - the exclusive use of the nation's marine wealth is to be reserved to the Filipino citizens, as provided for in the 1987 Constitution
- 2 - the decentralisation of the fisheries administration by involving the artisanal fisherfolk in policy making
- 3 - the recognition and advancement of the rights of fisherfolk as a distinct sector and the recognition of the role of women in the fishing industry

A Filipino fisherman issued the following powerful statement : "*History has shown that the fisherfolk have always been the true guardians of the sea. And our struggle has taught us that if we give up the rivers, lakes and seas, there will be no one to protect them*"!

One of the recent victories acquired by the fishworkers organisations of the Philippines is the establishment of Monitoring Committees to check all landings of fish. Such

Committees operate now in most fishing harbours of the Philippines.



*Filipino fisherman at the general assembly meeting*

## **Thailand**

The artisanal fishermen from Thailand live a very modest life. The available resources are diminishing rapidly. Only 20% of total catch goes to the fishermen. The large-scale development of aquaculture has further deteriorated the environment due to the destruction of mangroves. A petition from the Thai fishermen for the protection of the mangroves has been handed over to the Government.

The Thai fishworkers are very much aware of the need for a larger professional organisation. This process of organisation, they say, has to take place from within and should not be imposed by any external source.

The Government of Thailand has implemented a policy of joint-ventures with the Philippines and is presently negotiating with Burma new fishing agreements.

## **PACIFIC**

### **New Zealand**

The New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen representing various groups from all over the country did have very little power at the level of the national fisheries policy making.

The Federation united many local Associations of fishermen based at the many fishing ports. But after the inception of the "Quota Management Scheme" many Associations withdrew their membership from the Federation; small-scale fishermen who were anyway very marginal withdrew too.

They were the first to be affected by larger vessels literally cleaning the ocean floor for many miles, to the extent that some areas of the coastline have been stripped of certain species which for many generations had been the main source of food for the small-scale fishermen and their families. It was felt that the Federation had not taken any action to prevent the destruction of traditional fishing grounds.

In this context, the struggle of the Maori people (an ethnic group representing 12% of the total population) took even greater momentum as they were the main victims of the Quota System. Being a minority group their grievances have been neglected by the government, in spite of the "Treaty of Waitangi", a treaty signed by representatives of the British Crown and chiefs of the Maori tribes.

## **AFRICA**

### **Madagascar**

In collaboration with the Mission of the Sea an important fisheries development project has been set up at Tamatave on the Islands East coast in 1988/89, bringing together those fishermen wanting to improve their profession with the help of a technical committee made of young local people: a captain trained in France, a cold storage technician, an officer of the commercial fleet, a marine carpenter and a medical doctor.

A 10m fishing boat is used as a training vessel for young fishermen and for sea rescue operations. The first batch of trainees has completed its course in 1989. A second course starts with the participation of 16 trainees.

The women of Tamatave play an important role in marketing the fish. In this way a good share of the production goes back to the families of the fishermen.

### **Mauritius**

The Association of Professional Fishermen of Mauritius (APPIM) was officially registered in 1969. The situation prevailing in the small-scale fishing industry was very alarming due to illegal destructive fishing methods like dynamite, undersized nets and harpoon guns threatening resources and marine environment. It was in the wake of this awareness that the organisation was formed.

After the devastating cyclone in 1975, when hundreds of fishermen lost their boats and fishing gear, APPIM, with the help of IDP (Institute for Development and Progress), decided to set up a Revolving Fund. Thanks to this funds

many projects were started in order to strengthen the financial independence of the fishermen towards the middlemen.

At present Mauritius is faced with a situation of severe pollution due to tourism and industry. APPIM has now started various actions to solve these problems of pollution in collaboration with other organisations.

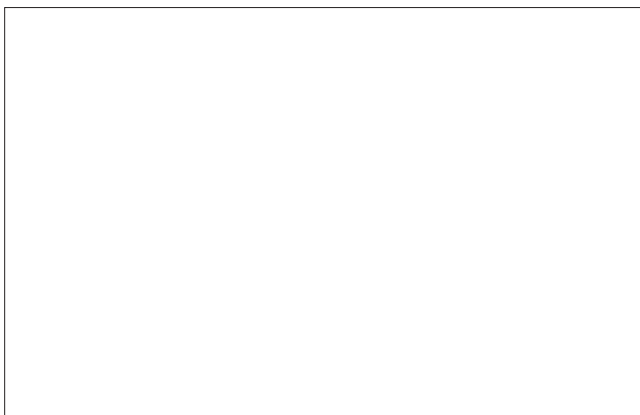
## Senegal

The Senegalese fishermen founded recently (in 1987) an organisation aiming at representing the profession. The National Collective of Senegalese Fishermen (CNPS) is to be a real powerful political instrument within the country. The organisation has a membership of 1.800 fishermen. It has its own publication in Wolof. The difficulties of getting access to credit for the fishworkers was one of the reasons for the creation of the Collective. This sector was until now dominated by the politics of "Credit Agricole", the agricultural credit bank supported by the government.

Other factors, such as the failure of the government programme for the motorisation of pirogues and the damages done by industrial fisheries, did also play a decisive role in the formation of the Collective.

The creation of a people's bank for fishermen is one of the objectives of the organisation. They are also working out a scheme for the rescue at sea.

A programme to assist Mauritanian repatriates (80% of the fishermen operating in Mauritania are of Senegales origins) is also being implemented.



*Left to right: Aliou Sall (CREDETIP) and Malic Gueye treasurer of CNPS (Senegal)*

## Togo

The first attempt to bring together the different cooperatives was made in 1965 (UNICOOPEMA) with the objective:

- 1- to set up a general body to coordinate all activities undertaken by the different fisheries cooperatives
- 2- put forward the rights of the fishermen in obtaining the needful credits for their activities

Fisheries Department established a cooperative for the sales of fishing equipment (COVAP), thereby replacing UNICOOPEMA.

The need of an organisation to defend the rights of artisanal fishermen was again brought up in 1978 by some young fishermen. Again UNICOOPEMA was reestablished and represents at present 20 cooperatives, with some 200 pirogues, covering 2.000 families, nearly 20.000 people.

UNICOOPEMA redefined its objectives as follows :

- 1- import of equipment and production of fish
- 2- marketing of fisheries products
- 3- acquisition of goods and services, repairs of fishing equipment
- 4- distribution of fisheries products by freezer truck

These objectives made it possible to establish an intermediary instrument in support of the profession, guarantee the supply of funds, acquire experience in direct marketing through distribution centres, improve the status of the profession.

## LATIN AMERICA

### Brazil

Historically there existed in Brazil two types of organisations :

- a union of artisanal fishermen (barely active)
- an association controlled by the navy and later by the merchants.

In 1980, the fishermen decided to have their own independent organisation. In 1985 and 1986, the artisanal fishermen held two Congresses in the premises of the National Assembly. This was a historical event.

Brazilian fishermen suffered many hardships from the side of the dictatorial regimes. At present they want to manage their own organisations and to form a National Council of Artisanal Fishermen.

## Chile

For thirteen years, organisations of fishermen were forbidden in Chile by the dictatorial regime. Because of the repression all leaders had resigned

At the initiatives of some of the previous leaders the National Council of Artisanal Fishermen of Chile (CONAPACH) was founded in 1986. All fishermen, irrespective of their political or religious believe were encouraged to join. At present the leaders of the organisation are free to express their ideas publicly. CONAPACH is now becoming a federation. Its strength lays in its membership of 5.000 fishermen spread over 100 grass root groups.

The Council has created a support group from among experts and scientists : the Centre for the Study, Development and Research of Small-Scale Fisheries of Chile (CEDIPAC).

The fishworkers actively participate in the process of democratisation and claim the right to be represented at the National Fisheries Commission.

Presently a study is being undertaken on the export of fisheries products, because Chilean people use little fish as food. An other study is also being done on credit facilities.

## Colombia

After 15 years of struggle, the artisanal fishermen of Colombia have been able to obtain from the Government an integrated programme in response to their demands. This programme consists of different parts: training, technical assistance, basic infrastructures, credit and marketing schemes.

The allocation of grants destined for the establishment of Artisanal Fisheries Service Centres (CESPA) makes it possible to realise productive economic projects on a national level in marine as well as in inland waters.

On the other hand, a National Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture for the benefit of the artisanal fishermen will be set up to strengthen and support the fisheries sector.

## Mexico

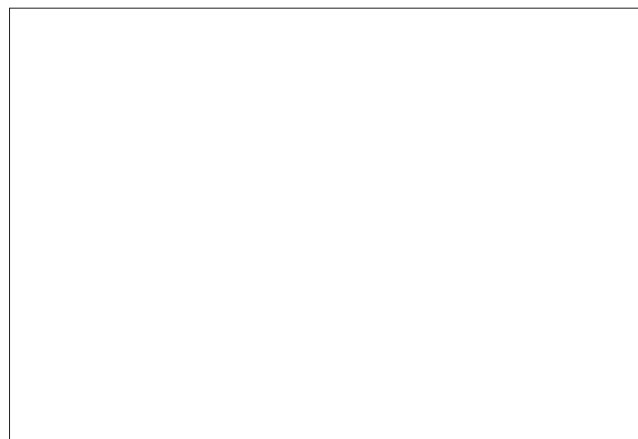
In Mexico, there exists a Confederation of cooperatives consisting of 81 artisanal fisheries cooperatives. But this Confederation is controlled by the government and this is for the fishermen a big problem. Some fishworkers are well aware of the situation and are trying to make their voice heard. This is a long and time consuming process.

## Peru

Fishworkers are well organised in both sectors, the artisanal as well as the industrial sector.

The difficulties of the artisanal fishermen are mainly concerned with the problems of marketing, because the profits made by middlemen are outrageous. One fish bought directly from a fisherman, for example, may cost 10 intis (local currency) but the same fish is sold for 100 intis at the market!

The social security for the fishermen is also a big problem for them.



*Members of the Latin American delegation at the Conference*

## Venezuela

With its coastline of 3.000 km, artisanal fisheries in Venezuela have developed immensely during the past ten years. Unfortunately it does not receive the assistance it rightfully deserves. There is no real organisation of artisanal fishermen and they are not yet aware of the necessity to get organised autonomously.

The Federation of Venezuelan Fishworkers (FETRAPESCA) is an organisation not only of artisanal fishermen but also of industrial boat owners as well. FETRAPESCA incorporates 54 national unions representing some 4.000 members.

Illiteracy is one of the main problems in artisanal fisheries. The educational system, in the fishing communities does not help to integrate people in the fishing profession. This is due to the fact that education is part of a development strategy in which the rural areas form the periphery in subordination to the urban centres. This is why many young people leave their villages. This process is more acute in fishing communities.

# NORTH AMERICA

## Canada

The main preoccupation of the small-scale fishermen of Canada concern at present the problems of the quota system. This system is the cause of many mortal accidents for the small-scale fishermen who have to resort to excessive risks in order to catch their quota.

Other problems originate from the presence of foreign fleets operating at the fringes of the Exclusive Economic Zone endangering marine resources.

The Maritime Fishermen's Union (MFU) on the East coast of Canada has taken the last few years many interesting initiatives aiming at informing small-scale fishermen on major questions that concern them and initiated democratic discussions and debates on these questions. They also organise training programmes for the fishworkers.

# EUROPE

## France

The small-scale fishermen of France are organised in most cases in local fishery Committees in which both fishworkers unions and fishmerchants representatives meet. These Committees, and their various commissions are represented at the national level by a central Committee.

Services organisations also jointly operate at the local level: cooperatives for managerial assistance, supply of equipments, credit, etc... These associations of local cooperatives are federated into a national organisation.

For the marketing of fish, Producers organisations (O.P.) have been set up at the local as well as at the national level. The national OP is also responsible for negotiating price policies with the EEC.

The French fishermen are on the other hand also confronted with serious problems related to resource management, conflicts between fishermen using different gear, etc... and various forms of pollution of the sea (nitrates, poisonous lindane barrels, etc...)

## International meeting of fishermen's wives

Cristina de Castro Garcia, animator of the Spanish "Mission of the Sea", presented an evaluation of the inter-

national meeting of fishermen's wives. This event took place starting in 1984 when Cristina de Castro had organised the first women's meeting in Bahina-Bayona in Galicia (Spain).

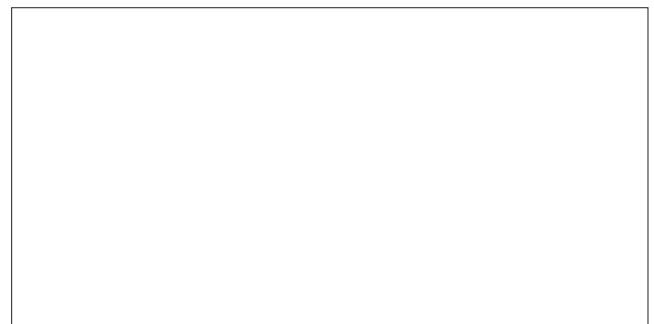
She gave an account of the women's problems relating to the long periods of absence of their husbands away at sea for 6 to 7 months, the questions of training, etc... Following this, two national Conventions and a European meeting at Lisbon (Portugal) enabled the women to freely spell out their point of view. From then on an Association of Portuguese women took shape and was able to get proper recognition from the Administration : respect for their dignity as working women, within the family and society in general.

At the same time an other group of fishermen's wives from "Pays Basque" was formed. Following this international contacts were build with French women's Associations from La Rochelle (France). This was the first International Meeting. A second was held in 1989 in Galicia. This second International meeting brought together fishermen's wives from 5 French harbours and from 14 Spanish ports. 130 women took part in the discussions based on the theme of solidarity. A video in which the struggle of the women of Cangas (Spain) was shown which portrayed how these fishermen's wives under very difficult circumstances negotiated a collective agreement. The meeting stressed the need for an International Fishermen's wives Association.

During this 2nd International Meeting two deliberations were taken:

- 1- the publication of an International Bulletin (BOGA)
- 2- create prerequisites where children from fishermen's families could meet and exchange.

This meeting has enabled to situate the role of women of fishermen in an international perspective.



*Session of the french spoken workshop*

## **These country presentations were followed by a discussion which pointed out some important issues related to the question of fishermen's organisations**

- It was clear that in the process of awareness building and organisation, considerable time and respect should be given to the autonomous stages through which such organisational process has to pass in order to mature. "Let time get its chance!"
- It is the wish of the fishworkers that each of them should be given equal opportunity to participate in a democratic way in the functioning of their organisation and not be marginalised. The workers should control their organisation.
- Many stressed the need for lobbying activities with other social institutions/organisations (in the light of environmental issues for example) but taking care that the autonomy of the fishworkers organisations is not jeopardised.
- Fishworkers organisations should participate in negotiations concerning resource management particularly with reference to the problems of over-fishing and the environmental destruction by modern technologies.
- The fishworkers organisations insist that serious thought should be given on the transfer of new technologies. The socio-cultural context of each country must be studied and taken into consideration.
- Quite a few problems common to all could be tackled by a better communication between organisations of different countries. Greater attention should be paid to the media. In this regard the ICSF was asked to enhance and establish such contacts, to bridge this gap between countries and the continents, particularly, in making available relevant information through its publications
- The hardships of fishworkers aboard industrial trawlers as well as the precarious condition of women and children working in the processing industries (canning factories, prawn peeling, etc...) should require urgent attention. The ICSF was asked to include these workers in the international exchanges, considering that they play an important role within the profession.
- An international solidarity action should be taken up (in collaboration with the ILO for ex...) to put pressure on the respective governments for the liberation of fishworkers detained in prison in various countries.
- Particular attention should be paid to the role of women within the fishing community, they have a crucial function within the profession, in defence of the environment, the family, the children's education, etc... But on the other hand, where do they stand within the fishworkers organisations?
- Technical assistance to fishworkers organisations should be channelled through their own support group instead of outside agents.
- The need for international organisation of fishworkers was mentioned at many instances. Such an international organisation could bear weight in lobbying work on issues relating to fundamental questions like environment and resource management for example.

# Workshops

For the workshop sessions held during an entire afternoon participants were divided in language groups. Three questions were put forward for discussion :

- 1- What are the solutions proposed by the organisations to the problems of pollution and resource management?
- 2- What could be the role of organisations in marketing activities?
- 3- How is it possible to facilitate the setting up of fishworkers organisations and establish working relations with other organisations? How to go about in activities of lobbying?

It is not possible here to provide a full account of the very rich and lively debates which took place. We have to limit ourselves and focus on some of the main points.

## 1) Resource management and environment.

Marine resources must be regarded as a social asset (and not as a collective property), the defence of which must be the responsibility of all. Experience has shown that fishworkers organisations are in the best position to sound the alarm bell and to negotiate solutions. No resource management can be successfully implemented without fishworkers organisations.

The States have an important responsibility in protecting their national resources and the marine environment while negotiating agreements with foreign fleets. The danger for Third World countries lays with the signing of too many fishery agreements.

Resource management presupposes a better knowledge and understanding of the eco-systems. Marine research should be geared towards the needs of small-scale fisheries and focus on those species that are of vital interest to them. Resource management should not deal exclusively with biological aspects only, but should embrace the totality of the eco-system, including other factors that might bear upon the resource base and the environment. This implies an awareness on the part of the populations of the fact that the future of marine life and the quality of the environment are directly linked. It is of great importance to build up alliances in favour of actions of common concern with organisations of fishworkers and other social groups concerned with the protection of life on earth (farmers associations, ecologists, scientists...).

Such attempts at creating a synergy between various groups must lead to concerted lobbying for new legislations on environmental issues.

On the one hand there is a growing awareness among fishermen regarding resource depletion and plundering of the seas caused by industrial fisheries, but on the other hand there is a growing concern about some destructive fishing techniques used sometimes by artisanal fishermen, such as dynamite, cyanide or trawling. Fishworkers organisations have an important role to play in information and training. The information should also reach the population in general.

Some participants suggested also the establishment of a monitoring organisation or institution bringing together representatives of fishermen federations of different gear-groups. This monitoring body could be responsible for the management of waters and resources and settle disputes. This organisation or institution could work-out a kind of *code of conduct* to be followed by all those having access to these resources and should have power to deal with eventual violations.



## 2) Fish marketing and the role of fishworkers organisations.

Some stressed the need for setting up marketing channels with the help of technicians but managed by the fishermen themselves. This activity would require training and marketing experience for those fishermen who until then were only involved in the production process.

The same were also in favour of getting the fishermen to enter into export oriented activities giving priority to local, regional or national markets in order to provide those regions deprived of other proteins.

This activity could assure fishermen enough income just as do the European producers organisations (O.P.) which enable them to have some bargaining power in fixing minimum prices for their produce and avoid price fluctuations.

Others proposed a reduction in the number of intermediaries but without eliminating them, because in some countries - even though their power is much resented - they still perform a much needed social function. This, for example, is noticed in Senegal or in Mauritius where the merchant plays an important role in the access to credit giving him by the way more bargaining power over the fisherwomen who often perform similar functions.

In the same way, others suggest that, instead of fighting for a producer's monopoly, the organisations and cooperatives must compete with the merchants in order to improve their bargaining power.

Fish is becoming more and more a luxury food item. Certain species are no longer available to the local people in the producing countries. The question arises whether it would not be advisable while analysing fish distribution and consumption, to put more emphasis on ethical values and care for poorer sections of society generally deprived by the market forces.

It was also noted that the nefarious effects of monoculture of particular species for export to the industrialised countries can be compared to those of the monoculture of groundnuts or soja in Third World countries.

Mention was also made to particular risks involved in some types of cooperation between professional organisations : while exporting into the Third World out-dated and badly overhauled fishing vessels some European investors get access to overseas markets and secure cheap supplies of foreign fish which is then dumped on the European market.

## 3) Interaction between Fishworkers Organisations and other organisations

The organisational process must give due respect to the historical and cultural values of the fishing communities. The organisations have to grow from within the socio-cultural context of the community and should not be imposed by any external authority or interest.

The fishworkers organisations should from the start clearly define their objectives and avoid being isolated. Possible working relations with other like minded organisations (ecological groups for example) should be encouraged, without thereby endangering the autonomy or class identity of the organisation.

Particular attention should be given in getting access to and processing the correct information :

- a)- getting correct scientific and technical information is not easy : some sources may, for political reasons, disseminate wrong or inaccurate information on pollutions, etc
- b)- identify and analyse questions which may concern both Northern as well as Southern countries, this leading to interactive working relations in a common perspective.
- c)- make a careful selection of the information, selecting those of primary importance.
- d)- decentralise information networks: in case of international data, these have to be understandable for all.
- e)- make the information available to all: the information network must facilitate active and swift communication between different organisations.
- f)- share the information to facilitate the lobbying by action groups and other organisations from outside the fisheries sector.
- g)- acquire appropriate communication equipment (xerox, phone, fax, etc...).
- h)- disseminate information to specialised media, press, scientific networks, etc...

## Audio-visual presentations

The following video films were screened during the afternoon on January 23rd :

### \* **PAMEZ development project of Senegal.**

This film gives an account of the problems of fish processing in Senegal, an activity which is done by the women.

### \* **The Kanyakumari march in India.**

This film visualises the impressive protest march in defence of the environment organised by the Indian fish-workers in May 1989.

### \* **The Maori fishworkers of New Zealand.**

A film of the problems and the hardships faced by artisanal fishermen of New Zealand confronted with the "quota" management.

These three projections were followed by lively discussions putting forward many questions on the problems depicted in the films as well as the use of video for training and communication.

## Exposure programme

The entire Wednesday 25th of January was devoted to different field visits in and outside Bangkok.

After leaving the "Golden Dragon Hotel" by 5h30 AM, the participants of the Conference went by bus to the fish market of the capital, where they were welcomed by the Bangkok Fish Marketing Organisation (BFMO). The BFMO is a government undertaking under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The visit of

the market itself gave an opportunity to discover the dynamism of the fish trade in Thailand. The BFMO officials introduced the members of the Conference its new marketing project to be build outside the capital : this new complex will offer a more rational infrastructure and better working conditions for its employees.

Next, the group embarked on a trip to the Samutsakorn Province South of Bangkok for a visit to a training centre for shrimp farmers at Charoen Pokabhand. This visit gave an idea of the importance and the extend of aquacultural activity in Thailand; at the same time it provided a clear view of the extend of destruction of vast tracts of mangrove and coastal forests and their transformation into large-scale export oriented prawn cultivature, generating various important pollutions.

After the visit of the various activities of the Centre and a pleasant lunch with the staff, the members of the Conference took off for the next trip to Supanburi Province to be welcomed by the members of the Fish Farming Society of Bang Plama. The development project involving 14 villages was presented to the participants in a magnificent Buddhist community hall. The project is conceived to provide (following Buddhist believe) for the 57 human needs in course of his voyage from conception to death. Following was a visit to a fresh water fish farm, where the voracity of the breeding fish was the main attraction.

After this visit, greatly appreciated by all, a traditional Thai dinner awaited the participants and even the most exhausted among them relished the delicious dishes. And again into the bus, to be just in time to witness a magnificent spectacle of light and sound depicting the historic elephant battle between the prince of Burma and the heroic king of Thailand (Siam).

# FINAL STATEMENT

## Introduction

The International Conference on Global Fisheries Trends and the Future of Fishworkers organised by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and hosted by the Kasetsart University, Thailand was officially inaugurated on January 22, 1990. Present at the Conference were 106 participants composed of academics, fishworkers, community organisers and some fishery officials. Together they represented 28 countries from South and North America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Pacific.

The Conference met at a juncture when the trends in the fisheries sector point to the imminent likelihood of major changes at the international level. These emerging changes arise not only from within the fisheries sector, but are also precipitated by pressures of ongoing development processes in the other sectors of the economy. The cumulative effect of these changes, in the long-run, threatens to destroy irreparably the aquatic cycle which is the basis of life on our planet. In the near future, these changes will affect the sustainability of fisheries, the survival of fishworkers and the nutritional standards of millions in developing countries.

## Global trends

During the last three decades there has been a steady increase in the world demand for fish. This tendency is predicted to continue and even to accelerate during the coming decades. Consequently, there has been tremendous effort to expand the production of fish to match this rising demand. This effort has taken place at a time when most maritime countries extended their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and thus acquired new rights and responsibilities for the management and development of their resources.

As a result of the new Law of the Sea signed in 1982, industrialised countries have been increasingly concerned with maintaining access of their long distance fleets to the waters off the coast of developing countries as well as with ensuring a steady supply of fishery products from the Third World. The latter was often achieved by enhancing the productive potential of the local fisheries through the provision of international finance, both public and private.

This development was particularly visible in the field of shrimp aquaculture in developing countries and in the rapid increase of fishing agreements between Northern and Southern countries - especially between the European Economic Community and the African countries.

Along side these efforts to enhance fish production, there are increasing threats to the aquatic eco-system due to the developments which have occurred in the other sectors of the economy. Indiscriminate economic growth strategies have resulted in excessive pressure on natural resources, particularly in coastal regions, and in growing amounts of effluents from industries and modern agriculture which affect the biological productivity of rivers, estuaries and coastal seas. The anarchic development of tourism along coastal areas provides a striking illustration of the detrimental effects which such profit oriented strategies have on fisherfolk and fisheries.

These trends have accentuated in the 1980's because of the external debt problem of many developing countries. Indeed, the need to service their debts in the context of a world economic crisis has forced them to plunder their natural resources and to neglect the basic need of large segments of their people in order to earn foreign exchange quickly.

## Issues in fisheries management and development

In the fisheries sector, export-oriented strategies as well as the provision of access rights to industrial fishing fleets, have resulted in enhanced competition and conflicts with local fisheries, particularly with small-scale fishing communities.

These small-scale fishing communities form a particularly vulnerable segment of the fisheries sector due to a variety of reasons. They are by and large powerless against physical intrusions in waters over which they had traditional rights. Poor access to credit, modern inputs and know-how have prevented them from upgrading their fishing technologies. The political and social marginalisation resulting from their low status and lack of organisation continue to reinforce all the above vulnerabilities.

In the case of some countries, the small-scale fishing communities have been able to get their governments to reorient fisheries policies. In other cases, they have succeeded in modernising their artisanal technologies which has enhanced their ability to compete with industrial fleets.

Unfortunately, this latter modernisation process in many countries has been only a short-term solution to the problems of these communities. This is so because fishery resources are already fully or even over-exploited when these measures are adopted. As a consequence, more efficient and costly harvesting technologies do not lead to

higher catches; the investments do not pay; fishermen get entrapped in indebtedness and the socio-economic differentiation within traditional fishing communities increases.

Fishworkers from developing countries working on the industrial fishing fleets are also victims of exploitation. While they are participants in an ecologically destructive process of fishing that leads to indiscriminate plunder of the seas and also to the marginalisation of small-scale fishworkers, their own work and service conditions are abysmally poor and they are faced with the constant threat of dismissal. This prevents them from creating effective organisations of their own and in joining hands with other workers in the fishery sector.

## **Fishworker's organisations**

Collective action of fishworkers is necessary for monitoring fishing effort, controlling access to the sea and managing and rejuvenating the resources. It is also a prerequisite for performing a large variety of economic, social and political functions. These include cooperative organisation for purchase of inputs and sale of outputs; improving access to credit and insurance; developing appropriate technologies and related skills; and for health and educational measures.

Many experiences reveal that when the state takes the initiative of creating cooperative structures for the supposed benefit of the people, serious problems arise. These initiatives have the effect of both impairing the effectiveness of the economic operations concerned (distribution of modern inputs; credit schemes, etc....) and increasing inequalities through discriminatory and corrupt practices often occurring due to political connections. In countries where industrial fisheries get active support from the state, only organised efforts by the small-scale fishworkers can pressurise the state to ensure that they also receive equal importance on matters relating to investment and credit.

A new genre of fishworkers' organisations have emerged during the last decade in some countries (e.g. India, Philippines, Chile). These organisations have focused their attention on, and directed their struggle at, ensuring that the state take steps to ensure that appropriate fishery management measures are enacted and enforced.

However, it must be admitted that in many instances the same organisations are much weaker in their ability to cope with the self-defeating character of certain fishing methods and the anarchic increases in fishing capacity aimed initially at maintaining their incomes.

Therefore a process of education and awareness-building is a basic prerequisite for these fishermen and their new

organisations. Equally important in this context is the need to revive and reinstate the encyclopaedic knowledge which many of these communities possess about the aquatic ecosystem. This cultural knowledge should serve as an important basis for devising ways and means of controlling and reorienting fishing effort and rejuvenating fishery resources.

To the extent that fishworker's organisations are effective in collective action, efforts should be made to develop their awareness and their skills with a view to enabling them to manage their fisheries. This requires that the state recognises fully the role of the fishworkers in fisheries management and entrusts to their organisations the rights and responsibilities to achieve this objective. Such an approach is a socially desirable alternative to the ongoing tendency of allocating individual rights to fisheries resources in the form of individual transferable quotas and licenses.

Attempts by fishworkers to federate at the national level should be actively promoted. However, where such national federations are multi-sectorial, the small-scale fishworkers are likely to be marginalised within the larger structures. Such inter-sectorial problems should be openly discussed.

## **Aquaculture**

In Latin America and Asia, coastal aquaculture has witnessed a phenomenal growth during the last decade.

Export-oriented aquaculture, it now appears, has created severe problems which jeopardise the livelihood of local peasant and fishing communities and in the long term will affect the sustainability of the natural resource base. Evidence from many countries show how this detrimental effects are being produced particularly in the case of shrimp aquaculture.

In the case of shrimp aquaculture in tropical countries we see the destruction of large tracts of estuarine and mangrove areas which form the natural breeding grounds of many species of aquatic life. Often, shrimp aquaculture is undertaken at the expense of the production of staple foods such as rice and fish species which were formerly locally consumed. After a few years of continuous cultivation, the fields are polluted owing to accumulation of toxic organic and inorganic substances. Since much of the demand for shrimp comes from a handful of industrialised countries the increase in shrimp production on a global scale causes a fall in the world market prices. This quickly affects not only those involved in aquaculture but is also bound to affect negatively the incomes of all small-scale fishworkers involved in capture-shrimp fisheries in developing countries.

However less intensive forms of aquaculture development can provide opportunities for fishworkers communities to manage fish resources in the area where they live to obtain new sources of income and to enhance food production and employment. These requires that such communities are given exclusive rights to control the water bodies and the surrounding environment.

## **Perspectives for the future**

\* To face the future, it is imperative to emphasize the need for a more holistic understanding of the intricate relationship between the aquatic environment and the total biosphere of our planet. As beacons of the sea fishworkers have a special role and responsibility in furthering this understanding.

\* To achieve this holistic understanding there is an increasing need for fishworkers and their supporters to -relate more closely to other deprived peoples who survival is also affected by environmental damage, which as in the case of fisheries, is hastened by development processes that pay little heed to the rhythms of nature.

\* These new alliances to protect the environment should not detract fishworkers either from the demands within the fisheries sector or from the autonomous functioning of their organisations.

\* Sustainability of development requires that we move from exploitative to nurturing relationships with nature. Nurture and sustenance have always been the role of women in fishing communities. This role has often resulted in them being marginalised in their own communities. Only their active participation in the economy and a recognition of its centrality, will ensure that such new relationships with nature emerge.

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY	NAME	ORGANISATION	PROFESSION
<b>AFRICA</b>			
<b>Mauritius</b>	FLEUROT R.	IDP	Social Worker
	ROSE J.	APPIM	Fishworker
<b>Madagascar</b>	NAROVE P.	Apostolat de la mer	Med. Doctor
<b>Senegal</b>	SALL A.	CREDETIP	Soc. Scientist
<b>Tanzania</b>	GUEYE M.	Collectif des pêcheurs	Fishworker
	SAASITA C.	Apostleship of the sea	Fs. Techn.
<b>Togo</b>	De Souza KWAMI	UNICOOPEMA	Fishworker
	Hunlede KISSIMBO	UNICOOPEMA	Fs. Techn.
<b>AMERICA L.</b>			
<b>Brazil</b>	DIEGUES Carlos	InstitutoOceanografico University of Sao Paulo	Professor Soc.Scientist
	LEITAO Wilma		Soc.Scientist
<b>Chile</b>	MORALES H.L.	CEDIPAC	Soc.Scientist
	CHAMORRO H.	CONAPACH	Fishworker
<b>Columbia</b>	GUTIERREZ F.	CESPA	Scientist
<b>Mexico</b>	PEREZ M.	Cooperativas de pescadores	Fishworker
<b>Peru</b>	PERALTA H.	Centro L.A. de pesca	Researcher
<b>Venezuela</b>	SALAYA J.	Universidad Simon Bolivar	Researcher
<b>AMERICA N.</b>			
<b>Canada</b>	BELLIVEAU M.	MFU	Union Secr.
	REVERET J.P.	University of Quebec	Researcher
	ROBICHAUD H.	MFU	Fishworker
<b>ASIA</b>			
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Bhagawati Ghosh	Devnt. Soc. & Fs. Net Prog.	Social Worker
<b>Hong-Kong</b>	Abdus Sabur	ACFOD/Bangkok	Coordinator
	VILLALBA	DAGA	Secretary
<b>India</b>	KURIEN J.	Centre for Devnt. Studies	Soc.Scientist
	LUCAS J.	K.D.F.S.F.	Social Worker
	MARIADHASAN	K.D.F.S.F.	Fishworker
	MATHEW S.		Researcher
	NAYAK N.	PCO Centre	Soc.Scientist
	SALDANHA M.	NFF	Tr.Unionist
	TILLAR	Fishermen's Welfare Soc.	Manager
	V. VIVEKANANDAN	SIFFS	Manager
<b>Philippines</b>	ALAPAY R.	BIGTIS LAKAS	Fishworker
	CASIPIT C.	CALARIZ	Fishworker
	CRISTOBAL V.	CALARIZ	Social Worker
	CURA N.	Asian Social Institute	Fac. Member
	MENDOZA V.	CALARIZ	Fishworker
	TABING L.	Found. of Rural Broadcasters	Journalist
<b>Taiwan</b>	NIKAR M.		Fishworker
	PETRUCELLI L.	Fishermen's Service Centre	Social Worker

<b>Thailand</b>	AMON PENMAD	PAKBANG Fishing Village W.F.	Fishworker
	AMPORN SUGANDHAVANIJ	KASETSART Univ.,Fac.of S.Sc	Soc.Scientist
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# WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

## *Titles of papers presented by invited speakers at the Conference on Global Fisheries Trends and the Future of Fishworkers. Bangkok, 22 - 27/01/1990.*

- \* CHAMORRO-ALVAREZ Humberto
  - El future de los Pescadores y trabajadores pesqueros: autonomia o sumision y los desafios de la profesion. (10 p)
  - The Future of Fishworkers: autonomy or submission. (in SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 - p 3 to p 9)
  - L'avenir des travailleurs de la pêche, les défis de la profesion : autonomie ou soumission. (dans SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 - p 3 à p 10)
- \* CREAN Kevin
  - World Fish Trade : constraints and opportunities for fishworkers. (17 p)
- \* CURA Nenita
  - People's movements : a development imperative. (17p)
- \* MATHEW Sebastian
  - Fishing Legislation and Inter-Gear Conflicts in Coastal Waters : Experiences of Japan and Southeast Asia. (11p)\*
  - Législation des pêches et conflits entre engins de pêche dans les eaux côtières : expériences du Japon et de l'Asie du Sud-Est. (10 p)
- \* MORALES Hector Luis
  - La acuicultura hoy :lo verde y lo negro de la revolucion azul. (18 p)
  - Aquaculture today : chances and hazards of the blue revolution. (in SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 - p 26 to p 39)
  - L'aquaculture aujourd'hui : chances et risques de la révolution bleue. (dans SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 -p 27 à p 41)
- \* NAYAK Nalini
  - The Impact of Global Development Strategies on the Fishworkers. (5 p)
  - Les conséquences des stratégies globales de développement sur les travailleurs de la pêche. (4 p)
- \* PLATTEAU Jean-Philippe
  - Les pêcheurs artisanaux face aux risques des investissements extérieurs. (dans SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 p 42 à p 54)
  - Small-scale fishermen and the threat of outside owner-investors. (in SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 p 40 to p 51)
- \* SALL Aliou
  - L'avenir de la pêche au Sénégal : approche technocratique et mal-développement. (dans SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 p 11 à p 26)
  - The future of the fisheries sector in Senegal : technocratic approach and inequitable development. (in SAMUDRA DOSSIER N°3 p 10 to 25)

### Regional Contributions

#### AFRICA

- \* De Souza Kwami
  - Union des Coopératives de Pêche Maritime au Togo. (4p)
- \* GUEYE Malic
  - Le Collectif National des Pêcheurs du Sénégal : stratégies d'organisation et problèmes. (5 p)
- \* ROSE Jacques
  - Association of professional fishermen of Mauritius (4p)

#### LATIN AMERICA

- \* CHAMORRO-ALVAREZ Humberto
  - Los aportes y demandas de los Pescadores artesanales para el periodo de la democracia : diez medidas para una accion conjunta. (4 p)
- \* SALAYA Juan José -
  - Situacion y perspectiva de la pesca artesanal en Venezuela. (19 p)

#### ASIA

- \* GHOSH Bhagabati
  - Bangladesh perspectives
  - \* MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, DEP. OF FISHERIES (Thailand)
    - Small-Scale Fisheries Development in Thailand. (5 p)
- \* SMALL FISHERS FEDERATION OF SRI LANKA
  - Present situation in Sri Lanka. (4 p)
- \* NATIONAL FISHERMEN'S FORUM (India)
  - A brief history of NFF. (5 p)
- \* SOUTH INDIAN FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN SOCIETIES (SIFFS)
  - Fishworkers Organisations : the South India Experience. (8 p)

#### EUROPE

- \* CLAIREAUX Henri (France)
  - Note about small-scale fisheries. (7 p)
- \* DE CASTRO GARCIA Cristina (Spain)
  - Encuentros y trabajo con esposas de pescadores. (4 p)

#### PACIFIC

- \* HIGGINS David
  - Fishworkers Organisations in New Zealand. (4 p)

Copies of the papers can be obtained from: ICSF, Liaison Office, rue Grétry 65, B-100Q Brussels, Belgium. (US\$ 0,15 p/p - postage by air mail included).

\* The paper by Sebastian Mathew is only a synopsis. The complete study has been published as SAMUDRA MONOGRAPH N°1 under the title : "Fishing Legislation and Gear Conflicts in Asian Countries". (p 124 - cost price 10 US\$)

# THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) is an international network founded in India in 1986, with the objective of providing fishworkers (men, women and children) with a platform to make their voice heard at the international level so that the numerous problems they face both at land and at sea may be taken into consideration by their governments and the international organisations.

In its search for cooperation and solidarity, the Collective joint hands with fishworkers' organisations and unions. Its characteristic feature lays in its close cooperation between scientists and social workers on the one hand and fishworkers, both from Southern as well as from Northern countries, on the other.

The goals of the Collective can be considered as providing the basis of four long-term programs:

## **Monitoring and research programs**

This program will provide the basis for various development studies in close collaboration with scientists and workers of the fishing profession.

## **Training and exchange programs**

This program will undertake the essential task of exchanging experiences and culminated knowledge. This will include the sharing of findings on new and appropriate technologies, learning from new organisational structures and interaction between the scientific community and workers, with the objective of demarginalising artisanal fisheries. The interaction is twofold : on the one hand the exchange between fishworkers and scientists and on the other hand the communication between fishworkers of various countries.

## **Actions and campaigns**

ICSF decided to support, at their request, fishworkers organisations facing troubles.

## **Communication**

The Collective has devised various means of communication : SAMUDRA Report, SAMUDRA Dossier, SAMUDRA Monograph (\*); a collection of video tapes, etc...

The ICSF is coordinated by a seven member voluntary animation team. They are the official "contact persons" and reside in Bangkok (Thailand), Bogota (Colombia), Brussels (Belgium), Dakar (Senegal), Manila (The Philippines), Trivandrum (India), Valparaiso (Chile).

Founded in the Third World the Collective endeavours, although with limited means, to view the problems faced by the small-scale fisheries sector in a global context.

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*\* The word "samudra" signifies "ocean" in many Asian languages and thus evokes the vastness of the problems that face the fishworkers.*

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