

## **A very successful 10AFAF and CAA4 in Yeosu, Korea**

The 10th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF) and 4th Symposium on Cage Aquaculture in Asia (CAA4) were held at Yeosu, Korea from 30th April to 4th May 2013. It attracted 680 participants - 230 overseas participants, with the rest from the host country. A total of 246 papers for oral presentation and 238 poster presentations from 32 countries were accepted prior to the forum. However, many potential participants could not attend due to the unsettling political situation at that time. This affected the total attendance, but even so, 169 oral presentations and 155 poster presentations from 27 countries were presented.

Keynote speeches on the theme of the Forum "Blue waters and green fisheries" were given by: Dr Chan Lui Lee (Honorary Life Member of AFS) and Dr Matthias Halwart (Senior Aquaculture Officer, FAO): Asian Fisheries Society- the way forward, Dr Sang-Gyu Sohn (Vice President, NFRDI, Korea): Current status and future prospects of fisheries in Korea and Prof Glen Hurry (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission): Sustainable fisheries and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Altogether there were 11 sessions with 1 special session:

- Session 1- Aquatic animal nutrition, feed and feeding;
- Session 2- Aquaculture production system
- Session 3- Fisheries processing
- Session 4- Fisheries and policy, social science, economics and livelihood
- Session 5- Fish for human nutrition and health
- Session 6- Environment impacts, pollution and ecotoxicology
- Session 7- Biodiversity, genetics, biotechnology and breeding, conservation
- Session 8- Fishing gear and technology
- Session 9- Fisheries assessment and aquatic resources management, ecology
- Session 10- Aquatic animal health and management
- Session 11- Shrimp and other crustacean aquaculture

### **Special Session- Fourth global symposium on gender in aquaculture and fisheries (GAF4):**

The Special Session GAF4 session moderators were Dr Meryl Williams and Dr. Nikita Gopal. In all, 28 oral presentations and 1 poster were given during this session, and four mini-workshops were organized. Four major areas were highlighted: (1) the gendered impacts of fishery sector change, (2) gender assets and roles, (3) challenges and tools to meet future needs, and (4) the road to mobilization to achieve gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries.

### **4th Symposium on Cage Aquaculture in Asia (CAA4):**

Concurrent to 10AFAF, the 4th Symposium on Cage Aquaculture in Asia (CAA4) was held. Presentations in CAA4 were arranged under two sessions: (1) marine and freshwater cage culture, seed production; (2) disease prevention and health management, pollution, ecotoxicology. A total of 23 presentations were made including 5 lectures by invited speakers, Dr Matthias Halwart, Dr Jon Arne Grottum (Norwegian Seafood Federation), Dr Alessandro Ciattaglia (Bandinotti Group S.p.A.), Dr Erick Hempel (The Nor-Fishing Foundation), and Dr Lee Jung-Uie (NFRDI, Korea).

The themes of the lectures were:

- Dr Matthias Halwart: Sustainable cage culture development – technical, environmental and policy considerations
- Dr Jon Arne Grottum: North-Atlantic cage aquaculture
- Dr Alessandro Ciattaglia: Cage aquaculture in the Mediterranean

Dr Erick Hempel: Modern trends in offshore cage culture and its potential for Asia  
Dr Lee Jung-Uie: Offshore aquaculture in Korea

Despite the political uncertainty at the time, the 10AFAF/CAA4 was very successful and continued the proud tradition of the Asian Fisheries Society to hold a triennial forum that brings together fisheries and aquaculture scientists from all over Asia to review the current status of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and to share their latest research results.

As well as the excellent scientific programme, participants enjoyed a unique glimpse of the rich culture of the host country – South Korea. Both the Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony featured wonderful dancing and music from a number of very talented groups. All participants will also remember the cultural events that could be enjoyed during the breaks in the scientific programme, especially the wonderful photo opportunity that involved dressing up in traditional Korean costumes. The forum was enjoyed by all.

**Exhibition:**

In conjunction with the Forum, a trade exhibition was held with 24 booths from 19 companies. The exhibition saw various companies and fisheries societies displaying the latest information in equipment and technology in the field of aquaculture and fisheries. The latest innovation in abalone culture was displayed in the booth of the Korean Abalone Industry Association which drew huge crowds daily. In the booth of the Jeju Flatfish Ltd. Co. flatfish fresh meat was served to visitors every day.

**Study tour:**

On the last day of the forum, some participants visited an abalone aquaculture farm in the Wando area (southern part of Korea) and had first-hand information on abalone mass aquaculture and breeding facilities.