

Welcoming Address
By
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Director-General, Department of Fisheries, Thailand
October 14, 2008 at 9.00 hrs

**Permanent Secretary, of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
of Thailand**
**Assistant Director General of FAO Regional Office for Asia and
the Pacific,**
SEAFDEC Secretary General
Director of Worldfish Center,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be here in a capacity of the host country to welcome you all in this important Global Conference on Small Scale Fisheries. This conference has reminded ourselves during the time that Thai delegation participated the COFI Meeting held in Rome in 2006 and made a proposal to the Committee on the need to establish the Sub-Committee on Small Scale Fisheries. At that time more than 50 countries from various regions around the world supported the idea of such establishment. Although, the proposal did not get immediately approved but rather to support the request in having the Small Scale Fisheries Program as a starting point. In this regard, as part of such program the Global Conference on Small Scale Fisheries has happened and allow all of us around the world bringing in together knowledge, experiences or practices to share

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under the Theme Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. I wish to thank FAO , in the strong commitment to make small scale fisheries program which is considered very significant to many developing countries particularly in Asian and African regions.

The organization of this Conference has been made possible by the common vision and the active support of my co-hosts: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or FAO, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre or SEAFDEC, the World Fish Center that have been working at the global and regional levels. This Conference is an important testimony of our great concern for the large number of people whose lives depend on the fish resource. I must say that they have been doing this with a great commitment to the resource sustainability, and the well-being of the environment. Destroying or damaging these resources is clearly a suicidal attempt; and I am confident that they would not do it unless they are misguided

At the national level, the Department of Fisheries has been responsible for the management of fisheries dealing with both marine and inland fisheries. As you will be hearing from the deliberations during this Conference the various outcomes of our attempts, we are happy to share with you our achievements that may be made applicable to your countries. As a key management tool, the Fishery Law has undergone a long process of being revised, and we shall soon see its enactment. We have also

/formulated a 10-year Master Plan....

formulated a 10-year Master Plan for Marine Fisheries Management, the implementation of which will commence this year. Our experiences concerning Gender in Fisheries will also be contributed during this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do hope that during the next four days meeting, it will be great opportunities for all of us to bring useful and pragmatic information and experiences from various regions to share at this Conference. By sharing such the information and knowledge, we shall have a common resource, and conviction in what we have been entrusted to do. This will certainly form a firm basis of our future relationship that, I hope, will bind together the peoples from different lands set apart by the seven seas.

Let me again thank my co-hosting agencies for making the organization of this important event possible. We nonetheless have much to do together in the future for our fisheries resources, for small-scale fellowmen and for the well-being of fish consumers around the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope this conference to be very successful having a tangible outcome. I also wish you all a pleasant stay in Bangkok.

Thank you very much.