

The John L. Dillon Social Science and Aquatic Resources Economics Laboratory

The Dedication Ceremony of the John L. Dillon Social Science and Aquatic Resources Economics Laboratory at the new headquarters of ICLARM-The World Fish Center in Batu Maung, Penang, Malaysia was held on 8 May 2001. Matthew Dillon, the son of John Dillon represented his father in the Dedication Ceremony. The speech of John Dillon, presented by Matthew on his behalf and excerpts of the speech of the Director General, Meryl Williams, are below:



The Speech of John L. Dillon

“Distinguished guests, friends and colleagues of my dad, John Dillon:

As one of his sons, Dad has asked me to say a few words on his behalf. I now do this – the following statement is his. I quote: Friends, thank you for honouring me in the way you are today. Words are inadequate to express my feelings of honor and joy to be so remembered in this fine new ICLARM facility. Beyond the spiritual side of life, three things have kept me busy in my 70 years – first, my family; second, my academic work in teaching and research; and third, since the 1970s, my association with international agricultural research through ACIAR (the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) and most particularly the CGIAR.

Each of these activities have had their own dimensions and delights.



Yet, together they have been an integrated whole, none being able to be fulfilled without the other.

As I have often said, and can only emphasize again, only through the love and domestic sacrifices of my wonderful wife Rita have I been able to be involved in the CGIAR – always her support has been ungrudging and always with the world’s poor in mind.

My CGIAR association has been largely as a board member, which brings me to ICLARM – aptly known as “The World Fish Center”. With its orientation to “People, Science, Environment and Partnerships”, combined with the direction and quality of its work, staff, traditions and culture, ICLARM is by any scientific measure a center of excellence. It is as good as any scientific institute in the environment of the CGIAR and its partners.

Best of all, given ICLARM’s mandate, it is the scientific leader, and at the same time a partner without arrogance, in the field of living aquatic resources and their management, particularly across the developing world where fish and fishers are so important, but yet not fully recognized.

To have the Social Science Research Laboratory named after me is an honour beyond my wildest dream, particularly as I know it will be the home of outstanding research. Research that will contribute to solving real problems!

Yet, it must be said that my involvement with ICLARM has been only as part of a team. Tribute must be paid to, in particular, Larry Stiffel (RIP), Barrie Filshie, Meryl Williams, to many board members but, most of all, to what I call the “ICLARM family” – to all at ICLARM because all are important from reception to management.

Not least, this building well



contributes to one of my dreams – that ICLARM should have, as it deserves and as it will have, its own HQ site in an appropriate location. Thanks to the wonderful generosity and scientific foresight of the Government of Malaysia and other donors, this dream is now being realized in this beautiful city of Penang which, appositely, is also a center of science and culture, not least in fields of complementarity to ICLARM.

To conclude, let me again record my thanks and, to be honest, my joy and pleasure at the honour you have bestowed upon me today.

Too, let me say I love you all. I wish you all good fortune and

happiness. And particularly I wish every success to ICLARM and her family.

Sincerely,
John Dillon – hoping I can say in the words of the English martyr Sir Thomas Moore “Qui nihil sum” (“I who am nothing”).

Excerpts of the Speech of the Director General, Meryl J. Williams

“Let me start with a brief history of the importance to ICLARM of the man we are honouring today. John Dillon came to the ICLARM Board after a long and distinguished career as a researcher and teacher in agricultural policy and economics in Australia and internationally. He had educated a generation of agricultural policy makers in Australia, the most senior of whom went on to change that sector into one that was modern, self reliant and internationally competitive. Internationally, he had already been on the board of 4 other CGIAR centers (ICRISAT, CIAT, ILCA and ISNAR) and chair of 3 of these, on the review teams for 4 centers and had been President of the Policy Advisory Council and chair of the Board of Management of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). He came to ICLARM in 1993, just after we had been admitted to the CGIAR and his wisdom and steady hand as Board Chair stood the Center in good stead.

...We have all been touched by his humanity – often demonstrated in equal measure by his wisdom and humour. When friends of John’s meet, the exchanges are rich with

stories of humourous incidents demonstrating John’s wit as well as his concern for people. His objectivity and sense of fair play are second to none... As a Board Chair, he was always supportive, prompt in his responses to any request and would also be direct and objective when he did not agree. He showed the perfect touch of knowing what was Board’s and what was management’s business. In short, he was a delight to work with and I personally count it as one of the privileges of my life to have worked as DG under his wise guidance.

...Early in his term, another challenge that John saw for ICLARM was the low level of social science research capacity in the Center. Although not an expert in ICLARM’s subject matter, John strongly supported the need for more social science. From a single project on fisheries management in 1993, ICLARM was able to establish the Policy Research and Impact Assessment Program in late 1996...The Policy Research and Impact Assessment Program is sought after by other programs within the Center and by many partners outside to collaborate at all scales of research endeavor – from household studies of poor fishing families to global studies of the supply and demand for fish.



This Dedication Ceremony would not have been possible without the generous support of ACIAR. In funding this Laboratory, ACIAR is honouring a famous Australian, supporting a CGIAR center and showing their commitment to social sciences in development assistance. ACIAR is a strong supporter of ICLARM in core funds and in special project funds, especially in the Pacific islands. We are very grateful for this leading gift from ACIAR in our new headquarters development. We are even more proud that it is to be named in honour of a man that ACIAR and ICLARM hold in common as a major influence on our directions – Professor John L. Dillon.”

“International Workshop on Management of Tropical Coastal Fisheries in Asia” Penang, Malaysia, 20-23 March 2001

In March 1998, ICLARM – The World Fish Center initiated the Project “Sustainable Management of Coastal Fish Stocks in Asia (ADB-RETA No. 5766)”. The project, funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) is being executed by ICLARM in collaboration with

multidisciplinary teams of scientists from eight developing member countries (DMCs) of the bank: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The project has three main objectives: (1) to strengthen the capabilities of

selected institutions in participating DMCs in the area of coastal fisheries assessment and management; (2) to develop a database (based largely on extant trawl surveys and related environmental and socioeconomic information) relevant to the management needs of the DMCs;

and (3) to examine management implications (including strategies and action plans as appropriate) of analysis of results based on data contained in the database and related information. In pursuit of project objectives, implementation has been subdivided into four main (interrelated) components, namely: (1) Database Development; (2) Resource Analyses; (3) Socio-Economic Analyses; and (4) Management Planning.

The project team at ICLARM and teams in the eight DMCs were subdivided into work groups focusing on each of the components. After three years, the Fisheries Resource Information System and Tools (FiRST) version 2000 and related documentation was developed under the Database Component. Data contained in FiRST under the Resource and Socio-Economic Analyses Components has also been substantially used. The management implications of analyses results, given the fisheries management situation in the participating DMCs, has been reviewed under the Management Planning Component. Highlights of the project are documented on the project website (www.cgiar.org/iclarm/trawl)

and in various project reports.

As part of the project's culminating activities, a workshop entitled "International Workshop on Management of Tropical Coastal Fisheries in Asia" was organized from 20-23 March 2001 at the Equatorial Hotel, Penang, Malaysia. The workshop was intended to:

1. Present and review the results of activities (database, resource analysis, socio-economics, and management planning) under the project "Sustainable Management of Coastal Fish Stocks in Asia" (ADB-RETA No. 5766);
2. Examine the key issues and opportunities at the national and regional level for improved management of coastal (demersal) fisheries in developing Asian countries;
3. Discuss strategies and programs of action (both planned and ongoing) of national/international agencies towards improved management of coastal (demersal) fisheries in the region; and
4. Explore follow-up action and support activities for regional collaboration to enhance national efforts in the area of coastal fisheries management.

To attain these objectives, four workshop sessions were organized

1. FiRST and assessment of fisheries in developing Asian countries;
2. National/Regional fisheries management situation;
3. Coastal fisheries management issues and opportunities in South and Southeast Asia; and
4. Scope for regional collaboration and follow-up actions.

A total of 84 delegates participated in the workshop of which 48 participants were from the national project teams (8 DMCs), 18 from other national/regional fisheries institutions (e.g. FAO, SEAFDEC, BOBP, ACIAR, MRAG, UNDP-GEF, Brunei Darussalam and Taiwan) and 18 from ICLARM. The participants also represented 28 agencies and 14 countries.

All objectives were successfully met during the course of the four-day workshop. Moreover, the workshop has improved awareness of key issues and opportunities, as well as the urgency of concerted action at various levels to sustain the benefits derived from coastal fisheries in the region. Details of workshop results and follow-up actions are available on the project website.



ICLARM-The World Fish Center Meets with Indian Scientists

The Management and Program Leaders of ICLARM - The World Fish Center organized a meeting with the Director General, Deputy Director General and the staff of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Directors of eight research institutions under ICAR, from 11-13 April 2001 in New Delhi and Lucknow, India, to discuss possible areas for collaboration. The eight research institutions of ICAR include the Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI),

Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), National Research Center for Cold Water Fisheries (NRCCWF), National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) and National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP).

Dr. R.S. Paroda, Director General of ICAR expressed interest

in strengthening research linkages with ICLARM. He indicated that fisheries and aquaculture are growing industries in India and ICAR is emphasizing the sustainable management of resources. The three-day meeting resulted in identifying areas of common interest for collaboration in aquaculture genetics, community managed integrated aquaculture and agriculture systems, fisheries management, excess capacity in artisanal fisheries and sharing of databases.

Aquatic Resources Research Planners/Managers Meet in Penang

Senior aquatic resources research managers/planners from 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand) and representatives of regional and international organizations (FAO, ICLARM, NACA and SEAFDEC) met in Penang, Malaysia from 26-29 March 2001 under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific regional forum, Group of Fisheries and Aquatic Research (GoFAR). This meeting was convened by ICLARM-The World Fish Center.

GoFAR was formed in 1998 by the senior research managers/planners from 13 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Representatives of regional and international organizations got together in response to the emerging needs in the development of aquatic resources and identified the lack of a common forum where research planners from aquatic resources

sector could meet, exchange information and identify regional priorities on which they could work together. They also recognized the need for closer links with the agriculture sector. GoFAR was formed under the umbrella of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and ICLARM was requested to coordinate this regional forum.

During the first meeting of GoFAR in 1998, the participants identified the need for institutional strengthening in research priority setting. Hence the focus of the second meeting, the Expert Consultation on Research Priority Setting held in Penang, was to equip the aquatic resources research managers/planners with appropriate approaches/methods for research planning and priority setting to enable



them to address developmental needs and ensure best use of limited resources. Different methods for priority setting were discussed during the first two days, followed by identification of regional research priorities in coastal resource

management, aquaculture and social science, and policy research. The participants identified a number of research topics relevant to the region in these major areas and prioritized them.

The expert consultation was jointly organized by ICLARM and the International Services for National Agriculture Research (ISNAR) with funding support from AusAID, APAARI and ICLARM.



New ReefBase, New Logo

ReefBase, ICLARM-The World Fish Center's global database on coral reefs, is going through a major transition. A significant revision of the database structure, content and website is presently being implemented. An exciting, information-rich ReefBase is expected to be ready before the end of the year. The revised website will focus initially on the provision of information in the form of published information and interpretations on the status, threats and management solutions in relation to coral reefs in different regions and countries. This

will complement the existing detailed data which has been accumulated in ReefBase up till now. Another important improvement will be the addition of a Geographic Information System (GIS) module, which will allow for map-based display and query of ReefBase data.

To highlight this new direction, ReefBase recently adopted a new logo. It shows a gridded globe, representing the global scope and spatial (GIS) component of the database. Coral and fish inside the globe illustrate the focus of the

database content. Finally, wave curves at the bottom of the logo provide a visual link to partner logos of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

A new, albeit temporary, website is available at <http://www.reefbase.org>. It provides access to part of the database and contains many regional and national coral reef status reports from the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, as well as the full text from the two global status reports published so far.

Africa and West Asia - Program Development Workshop Abbassa, Egypt, 23-25 April 2001

ICLARM's regional center for Africa and West Asia was opened in 1997. Since then the research program at Abbassa has developed steadily, activities in Malawi have diversified, and a new project has begun in Cameroon. However, ICLARM's Strategic Plan 2000-2020 commits to achieving a further significant increase in our work in the region over the next five years and a number of steps are now being taken to help achieve this.

Late in 2000, a consultation process was initiated with staff,

NARS, and other partners including other CG centers to obtain their views on the issues that ICLARM should be addressing in the region. Building upon this ongoing process a regional program planning workshop was held at the regional center at Abbassa, Egypt, from 23-25 April, with the purpose of developing the substantive rationale and technical focus for our work in the region over the next five years. To achieve this, the workshop brought together 32 participants from 11 countries in the region,

selected partners including FAO and SADC, and staff from the region and HQ.

After reviewing the overall regional trends that should influence ICLARM's work, the impact of those trends on aquatic resource systems, and the research questions that emerge from this, the workshop identified a number of areas where ICLARM could focus attention to improve fisheries and aquaculture in the region. These include:

- Acquiring, interpreting and supplying information on the

- value of fisheries in support of governance systems that enhance the contribution of riverine systems to food security.
- Providing information on ways in which fish and fisher respond to natural and artificial changes in riverine systems as a basis for improved management and mitigation of losses caused by external interventions such as dams.
 - Assessing the extent, health, and current and prospective value of the coastal fisheries of the region.
 - Evaluating options for maximising fish production in the face of competing demands for water in lakes and reservoirs and associated catchments.
 - Evaluating and identifying approaches for conserving biodiversity in the region's natural lake systems.
 - Enhancing the contribution of aquaculture through a better understanding of the adoption process by farmers.
 - Enhancing aquaculture productivity, including efficient seed production and genetic enhancement.

Over the next few months, the results of the workshop together with further consultation, will be drawn upon to develop the regional program that will serve as the focus for ICLARM's work in the region over the next 5 years. A first draft will be circulated in June and a final draft in September.

Sustainable Fresh Water Farming Using Farm Aquafeeds

On 15th January 2001 the School of Industrial Fisheries, Cochin University of Science and Technology together with the Agency for Development of Aquaculture (ADAK), Kerala, India organized a one day National Workshop on "Use of Farm Made Aquafeeds for the Sustainable Development of Freshwater Prawn Farming". A total of 15 papers were presented and discussed during the workshop. The topics ranged from farming techniques, feeding strategies, the potential and status of prawn farming in India, farm-made technology, formulation of eco-friendly farm-made feed to marketing and post-harvest handling of scampi. Among the participants of the workshop, which included delegates, government officials and academics were, 30 farmers from Kottayam, Thissur, Allappuzha and Ernakulam.

The workshop made 22 recommendations including improvements to existing farming practices which were profitable and yet not environmentally disruptive, environmentally friendly and cost effective farm aquafeed; quality control of raw materials of feed;

simple and cheap production; processing and storage techniques; reduction of feed wastage; upgrading of harvesting technology; technology transfer to fisherwomen self-help groups and availability of feed from women's cooperatives; streamlining of marketing; upgrading of seed production technology and production; and supply of good quality seed by capable and competent agencies.

The occasion also saw the launch of the farm-made aquafeed and feed mill unit developed and designed by the School of Industrial Fisheries as part of an ICAR project in Kuttanad. It was a milestone in the extension and transfer of technology program of ADAK in relation to scampi farming in Kuttanad.

This aquafeed and feed mill unit is significant in that farmers can now produce the required daily feed at the farm site using minimum facilities. It has a capacity of manufacturing 100 – 150 kg of feed/day of a quality at par with branded factory manufactured feed. It is capable of supplying cheaper scampi feed in Kerala and has the potential to increase the scope of scampi culture in the state.

Before the feed was formulated some 50 locally available and cheap plant-animal ingredients were researched and evaluated for nutritional quality. A combination containing eight ingredients in the required proportions were found fully compatible with the optimum growth requirements of scampi. Encouraging results from several laboratory trials using *Machrobachium rosenbergii* juveniles then led to field trials.

The feed manufactured at the feed mill was used on a one hectare polder at Achamma Kurian, Veliyanad, Allapuzha. Within a culture period of six months, there was a total yield of around 800 kg/ha using 60 – 80 kg of farm-made feed. The unit cost/kg was about Rs 13. This has helped the farmer bring down feed cost by 38% compared to factory made feed used previously. Culture period had also been reduced from eight to six months. A notable fact was that with the introduction of this feed, undersized non-marketable prawns were reduced to 4% compared to 26% the previous year.