

EDITORIAL

At the beginning of the third millennium, the world community has very different expectations of us as an international research center than in 1977 when ICLARM – the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management – was first set up. Many developing countries now have flourishing national research organizations and are leading their national research agendas. They are working as partners on regional and global initiatives that cross national jurisdictions. They look to share innovations and technologies developed elsewhere that may address their problems.

In anticipation of changing expectations and in reaffirmation of our global responsibilities, we have changed our name to The World Fish Center and have just opened a new, purpose-built headquarters in Penang, Malaysia. But physical resources are only part of the picture. We see the new headquarters as a nerve center from which we will extend relationships and share understanding. For our part we will strive to strengthen international networks and partnerships, to take perspectives which cross countries, regions and the globe, to identify and promote policies that work, to build capacity in aquatic resources management.

Increasing global demands for the goods and services based from aquatic resource systems mean less fish in the diets of the poor and fewer opportunities to make a living in fishing or raise fish on their small farms or homesteads for their families or for sale.

At the Center, we believe that knowledge about the interactions in aquatic resource systems - marine and freshwater, seas, lakes, rivers and ponds – put into the hands of the users, creates opportunities for meaningful dialogue on how to manage the resources sustainably and integrated approaches to aquatic resource issues. We look forward to working with you on the challenges ahead.

Meryl J. Williams
Director General

Why Naga?

The Naga is an underwater creature from Asian mythology. Superior to humans, it inhabits sub-aquatic paradises, living at the bottom of rivers, lakes and seas in resplendent palaces studded with gems and pearls. It is the keeper of the life-energy that is stored in the waters of springs, wells and ponds. It is also the guardian of the riches of the seas – corals, shells and pearls. Naga represents the very focus of ICLARM-The World Fish Center, namely protecting the wealth and productivity of tropical waters.



Cover photo by D.B. James: Sea cucumbers from seas around India.