

## The Inauguration of the New Headquarters of ICLARM-The World Fish Center



*The New HQ of ICLARM-The World Fish Center.*

The new headquarters of ICLARM-The World Fish Center, located on a 5.3-hectare site in Batu Maung, Penang, Malaysia was inaugurated on 13 August 2001 by the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi. The opening of the Center was also attended by the Chief Minister of Penang, Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Khoon and the Minister of Agriculture, Datuk Dr Mohd. Effendi Norwawi.

The new US\$3.7 million global headquarters is located adjacent to the Fisheries Research Institute, on a site formerly occupied by the Malaysian Fisheries Training College. The new headquarters has been made possible by the generous donation of the site by the Government of Malaysia and funds donated by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the governments of Japan and Canada, the Australian Center of International Agricultural

Research and various other governments and foundations around the globe. The headquarters serves research facilities and offices in nine countries, with project sites in 22 countries worldwide.

The event was attended by representatives from government agencies, donors, partners and collaborators from non-government organizations, research institutions and universities, ambassadors and high commissioners and the private sectors.

In his speech, the Deputy Prime Minister noted: "... managing fisheries resources in a suitable manner has become an increasingly complex issue, with many competing interests...It is our responsibility to manage our fisheries resources based on the best knowledge and information that we have, and with the greatest of care to ensure sustainability...We welcome the World Fish Center to Malaysia and hope that the wide



*The inauguration of the new HQ by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.*

field of visiting specialists with interests in fisheries will lead to the development of constructive management for improved fisheries production and sustainability."

The inauguration also offered guests a tour of research displays with presentations by some of the World Fish Center's research staff. Topics included: (1) There's something about Tilapia; (2) Black pearls, sea cucumbers and fisheries management; (3) ReefBase: A global information system on coral reefs; (4) Food, income and better nutrition for the rural poor through Integrated Aquaculture-Agriculture and 5) Towards improved management of fisheries resources.

*Tet Lopez*

*ICLARM-The World Fish Center*

## The World Fish Center Signs New Agreements in Malawi

ICLARM – The World Fish Center has been working in Malawi since 1986 and opened its office there in 1987. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> office of the Center outside its headquarters (the first was in Solomon Islands) and on 12 July 2001, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, Mr George Mkondiwa, on behalf of the Government of Malawi and the Center's Director General, Dr. Meryl Williams, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, pledging continued cooperation in research for the management of aquatic resources in Malawi and southern Africa. At the same ceremony, in the capital Lilongwe, the Director General also signed a new agreement with the University of Malawi, represented by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor David Rubadiri.

Dr Williams expressed the Center's gratitude for its continued strong support through the Department of Fisheries. The Government is also a founding signatory to ICLARM's International Agreement, signed in 1993. The MOU

that was signed in July continues the Government's formal support. In addition to the Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, the Center enjoys very fruitful partnerships with the University of Malawi system, especially Bunda and Chancellor Colleges, and several development assistance agencies, especially USAID and Danida and national and international non-government aid agencies. The Center currently has 16 staff in Malawi. The Office is led by Dr Daniel Jamu.

The Malawi Office of the Center continues to increase in importance due to the demonstrated impact of its work. It is becoming the Center's southern African regional head-quarters, allowing outreach into other countries and it is also the gateway to tapping the Center's global experience and feeding back the rich lessons from progress in Malawi. Africa is now receiving more attention in the Center's agenda and, through its African and West Asian hub in Abbassa, Egypt, the Center has recently embarked on a planning exercise to develop more

activities in the region.

Over the 15 years of work in Malawi, the World Fish Center claims a role in developing the technology for viable integrated fish farming and in helping to close the communication gap between farmers, scientists and extension workers through participatory research approaches and the farmer-scientist-research-extension team approach. A recent socio-economic survey by the Center in four areas showed that fish farming households were better off than non-fish farming households. In the fish farming households, children under 5 were less likely to be malnourished. The more fish ponds the farm had and the greater the number of years fish farming, the greater the improvement in nutrition.

The Center is also helping the Malawi National Aquaculture Center to develop an improved breed of one of the chambos, *Oreochromis shiranus* to increase fish production and farm productivity. Malawi is a founding and very active member of the International Network for Genetics in Aquaculture, coordinated by ICLARM.

## FAO Expert Consultation on Science for Sustainable Food Security, Nutritional Adequacy and Poverty Alleviation in the Asia-Pacific Region

June 25 – 28, 2001

Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India

The aim of this consultation was "to review the progress made since the FAO Rome World Food Summit of November, 1996, in improving the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. Nearly two-thirds of the world's poor live in this region, where enhancing economic access to

food has become the major food security challenge." The Consultation focused "on the role of science and public policy in converting Asia's green revolution into an ever-green revolution, rooted in the principles of ecology, economics, gender and social equity and employment generation, and achieving the goal of 'Hunger-free Asia'."

The meeting was attended by over 50 experts whose work reviewed the challenges still remaining on the World Food Summit Agenda. The Director General of the World Fish Center, Dr. Meryl Williams presented a paper entitled "The Role of Scientists and the Science Organization" in the session on "Science and Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security: challenges and

opportunities". Her paper emphasized the importance of aquatic resources in nutrition and food security in the region and examined how scientific organization had to broaden their roles to fully address the challenge, essentially adding to their laboratory

and research station work with work in the farmers fields, in the fishing villages and among the policy makers.

The Expert Consultation was opened by the Indian Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Rural Development and the Tamil Nadu State

Minister of Agriculture. Among his many distinctions, the host, Professor M.S. Swaminathan, is a former Director General of the International Rice Research Institute, winner of the World Food Prize and member of the Board of Trustees of ICLARM.

## FishBase Consortium

FishBase is a repository of available information on the taxonomy, biology, ecology, occurrence and utilization of fish which is available on CD-ROM and the internet at [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org). This leading database resulted from more than ten years work at ICLARM and in partnership with FAO and other providers of scientific information, map, photographs etc. Freely accessible to everyone, except for commercial use, it is a useful and powerful tool for research in support of management of fish resources and biodiversity in the developing countries, the European Community and other developed regions.

The vital objective of updating the taxonomic backbone, related biological and ecological information, as well as elementary, selected information on ecosystems and population dynamics, and exploitation of resources, is a further long-term project which necessitates a continuous monitoring of scientific progress and information quality. The FishBase Consortium was

formed to support and manage the future development of FishBase. This non-profit cooperation of voluntary members consists of ICLARM – The World Fish Center; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); The Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada; Institut für Meereskunde an der Universität Kiel, Germany; Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; Musée royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium; and Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden.

Specials goals of the consortium are:

- Consolidation and expansion of global data on fish biodiversity (particularly strengthening areas such as ecology, especially of freshwater fishes, and for instance genetics) to enhance relevance to ecosystem management;
- Integration of its functions with other related databases and information sources relevant to

fisheries and biodiversity management;

- Promotion of the utility of FishBase in developing countries;
- Assistance to develop and build linkages to similar databases for other taxa (e.g., Crustacea and Mollusca).

Future plans for FishBase include incorporating indicators of biotic integrity, including information on fish disease, developing Web Wizards for sustainable fisheries analysis, establishing mirror sites for the web page at the collaborating European institutions and translating FishBase into French.

We envisage that the cooperation between the institutions now contributing to FishBase will continue and be reinforced through the consortium, to develop FishBase further into a principal dynamic tool for world-wide dissemination of fish, fish biology, biodiversity, and fisheries knowledge in the 21st Century.

## ICLARM-The World Fish Center Presents Work on Tilapia at INFOFISH Conference

The Director General of ICLARM-The World Fish Center presented the Center's extensive work on tilapia at the Tilapia 2001: International technical and trade conference on tilapia held last 28-30 May 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The paper entitled 'The role of an international research organization in tilapia aquaculture by Belen Acosta and Meryl Williams, describes how the Center responded to emerging needs of the tilapia aquaculture industry, specifically in developing countries of Asia, Africa and the Pacific. It also traces the history and describes prior research initiatives which led to development of national tilapia breeding programs in many developing countries. The Center's future research directions for this commodity are also discussed.

Dr. Daniel Jamu of the Center's Malawi office presented on tilapia culture in Africa and Dr. Madan Dey of the headquarters presented two

papers on the economics and status of tilapia production in Asia.

Apart from presenting its work on tilapia, the Center also participated in the Tilapia 2001 exhibition. A total of 300 scientists,

traders, farmers, industry leaders, investors, environmentalists and others interested in the tilapia industry from 40 countries attended the conference and visited the exhibitors' booths.



*Dr. Meryl J. Williams, Director General, and Dr. Modadugu V. Gupta, Director, International Relations, ICLARM -The World Fish Center with the Minister of Agriculture, Malaysia YB Datuk Dr. Mohd. Effendi Norwawi, in one of the tilapia exhibitor's booths during the opening of the exhibition.*

## Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts Advisory Board Meeting

*IFREMER, Brest, France  
19-22 June 2001*

The Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) Advisory Board was hosted by the Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), Service de la Documentation et des Bibliothèques (SDB), Centre de Brest, Plouzané, France, from 19 to 22 June 2001.

The Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) are the principal product of Aquatic Sciences

and Fisheries Information Service (ASFIS). The abstracts cover the science, technology, management and conservation of marine, brackish water and freshwater resources and environments, including their socioeconomic and legal aspects.

The Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information Service (ASFIS) is a cooperative international information system created in 1970 by FAO. Aquatic

sciences deal with inter-sectoral matters and have inter-disciplinary work in common and the abstracts serve many users in many sectors.

Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information Service (ASFIS) aims to disseminate bibliographic information on aquatic sciences and fisheries to the world community, and particularly bears in mind the special interests of developing countries.

Partnership of ASFA in 2001 stands at 44 members. There are 4 UN co-sponsoring partners, 6 international partners, 31 national partners and a publishing partner, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

Bibliographic references are prepared by ASFA partners who monitor over 5000 serial publications, books, reports, conference proceedings, and grey literature. Each bibliographic reference includes: a title, an English or non-English abstract, the subject, taxonomic and geographic indexing.

The principal product is the ASFA bibliographic database which has 750,000 bibliographic records entered since 1971, of which 650,000 are computerized. There are 254 subject categories and increasingly, sociology, economics and political papers will be added from CSA political science and sociology databases. Grey literature, and PhD theses are particularly important.

Input is sent to the publishing partner Cambridge Scientific Abstracts who create a master file.

Information products are produced from the master file and include printed abstract journals, CDRoms quarterly, and an Internet Database Service also updated quarterly.

The ASFA Advisory Board sets the directions and policies for ASFA with input and feedback from partners. A current development is web-based ASFA/ISIS software for inputting records. Another initiative is an ASFA/Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS) proposal to develop a map-based query facility to ASFA.

The ASFA Secretariat is based in FAO, Rome and inputs FAO publications. The Secretariat also maintains list of materials monitored (3591 titles) and produces ASFA/ISIS reference series publications. Training and editorial assistance with input to newly trained partners and an ASFA/ISIS helpdesk are provided.

The ASFA Secretariat also works to make ASFA available to Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs). To date CD-ROMs have

been provided to 26 countries, and Internet access to six countries.

Participating in ASFA enables an institution to develop the institutional capacity to collect, process, and disseminate information, and to assume direct bibliographic control over its own published research. Institutions can ensure that important work is not overlooked and capture grey literature. Moreover, institutions retain control over the quality of indexing and abstracting of their published information.

Participation in ASFA has many benefits, including increasing the visibility of research, disseminating references worldwide and enabling partners to provide information services to user communities using ASFA products received for their input efforts.

ASFIS is a cooperative international information service and one of many ways we disseminate research information. Partnership has both responsibilities and benefits and developing countries are encouraged to become partners and help make their research more widely known.

IFREMER and the ASFA Secretariat are to be congratulated for a very successful Meeting and for all the work involved in the organization. The next Meeting of the ASFA Advisory Board will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome in June 2002. More information on ASFA can be found on the Internet at <http://www.fao.org/fi/asfa>.

*Dr Sandra Child  
Head, Information & Communication  
The World Fish Center, Penang, Malaysia*



## Workshop on Increasing and Sustaining the Productivity of Fish and Rice in Seasonally Flooded Ecosystems in South and Southeast Asia

The final workshop of this research project was successfully held on 12-13 June in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The overall objective of the project was to increase the incomes of rice farmers and other users of floodplains (i.e., fishers) in the deepwater rice ecosystems through the integration of “indigenous” resource management techniques with semi-intensive rice-fish culture and management technologies. The three-pronged approach used during the project includes comparative analysis of alternative resource use patterns in flood-prone ecosystems, participatory development of viable income generating technical options and their field-testing and validation, and identification of viable community-based mechanisms and tenurial/institutional arrangements. The project activities were implemented in Bangladesh and Vietnam from June 1997 to June 2001 by the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Proshika

Manobik Unnayan Kendra (an NGO in Bangladesh), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Research Institute for Aquaculture No. 1 and 2 in Vietnam, Vietnam Agriculture Science Institute, ICLARM-The World Fish Center and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and were coordinated by ICLARM-The World Fish Center. The project was funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Ford Foundation, core funds of ICLARM-The World Fish Center and the partner institutes in Bangladesh and Vietnam.

The workshop discussed the results of various research activities undertaken during the project period, identified the extrapolation domain and the dissemination strategy for the technologies and institutional arrangements developed through the project, discussed a set of extension materials/technology advisory notes (TANs) on the technologies developed, and finalized follow-up actions needed.

Around 40 participants from Bangladesh, Vietnam and India, ICLARM-The World Fish Center, and IRRI participated in the workshop. The workshop concluded that fish culture in the flood-prone rice ecosystem through community-based management is technically feasible, economically viable, environmentally non-destructive, and socially acceptable. The community-based rice-fish culture in the flood-prone ecosystem provides additional fish yield of around 250 to 1500 kg/ha fish without the reduction of rice yield. It increases farmers’ net return by US\$220 to 400 per ha, and does not reduce wild fish catch. The technologies and institutional arrangements (management options) developed under the project are being disseminated among farmers in Bangladesh and Vietnam by the government extension agencies and NGOs. The Government of West Bengal, India is also keen to initiate a similar project in their state.

## CIFA receives National Udyog Excellence Award

The Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar, India is a premier institute involved in research, training extension and education for more than two decades. CIFA has developed a number of technologies in the areas of freshwater aquaculture like freshwater pearl culture, prawn culture, catfish farming, carp breeding and culture, flow-through system, genetically improved rohu, fish feed for carp, catfish and prawn, organic farming, fish health and disease control and aquatic microbiology. In recognition of that, CIFA has received the National

Udyog Excellence Award for the outstanding contribution in the field of freshwater aquaculture, by the International Institute of Education and Management on 4 May at Hotel Samrat, New Delhi, India. CIFA is the first fisheries institute of the country to receive such distinction.

Dr. C. Saha, the Director of CIFA, also conferred with the prestigious “Jewel of India Award” of the International Institute of Education and Management. Dr. Saha contributed significantly to the field of Aquaculture Engineering and developed Flow-through system of Aquaculture where fish production of

100 t/h/yr was achieved. He is the first Fisheries Scientist in the country to receive this award.



*Dr. C. Saha Director, CIFA receiving the 'Jewel of India Award' of the International Institute of Education Management, New Delhi from Shri Bhisma Narain Singh, former governor of Assam and Tamil Nadu.*

## Meeting a Naga author

Too often, we at the World Fish Center do not get to meet the many authors of Naga articles face to face. During her participation at the Expert Consultation described above, the Director General, Dr. Meryl Williams had the great pleasure to meet a recent Naga author, Dr A. Shaleesha, a researcher at the M.S, Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai. Shaleesha is in charge of the program on Eco-friendly aquaculture and reported on the involvement of women in this program in Naga Vol. 23 No. 3. As part of her program, she directs a hatchery that is developing robust

techniques for the culture of *Macrobrachium rosenbergi*. The detailed pencil drawings of the life

stages of the *M. rosenbergi* seen in the photo are done by Saleesha herself.



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## 2001 Naga Award Competition

### The 2001 Naga Award Competition is on!

You can nominate candidate(s) for the competition by sending us a scientific paper or book on any aspect of fisheries including aquaculture published in the last five years by developing country scientist(s), which might win the prestigious award. Tell us in your view the important contribution the paper/book has made to science and sustainable management of aquatic resources. Your nomination can win the author(s) of the paper/book the prestigious NAGA Award given by ICLARM, which includes a plaque of appreciation and US\$ 500. You as nominator of the winning submission will be rewarded with a book prize.

**The conditions:** You can nominate a scientific paper or book authored by a developing-country scientist(s) that has had a strong influence on research in any area of fisheries science (capture fisheries/ aquaculture/resource management/ policy) in recent years. You cannot nominate yourself or colleagues from the same institution.

### Send your entries to:

The Editor, NAGA, ICLARM – The World Fish Center, P.O. Box 500 GPO, 10670 Penang, Malaysia.

Deadline for submission for the 2001 Naga Award is 30 November 2001. Please note that submissions received after this date will be considered for the 2002 Naga Award.

