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Message from the Chairman

Dear Cooperators

I sincerely appreciate your dedication to the development of world fisheries and cooperative movement across the world.

Last Nov, I was reelected as the ICFO Chairman thanks to our member's support. Once again, I would like to express deep gratitude to you and I feel like I have great responsibilities on how to lead the ICFO and make fishermen of our member countries live well.



The ICFO, one of the international cooperative Alliance's sectoral organizations which has led the global cooperative movement with more than 1 billion members worldwide, has been committed to the development of the fishing industry around the world through programs such as the "World Fisheries Cooperative Day" and education for fishermen in developing countries. These programs have established the foundations for sharing expertise and experiences with the member organizations.

This year, the ICFO and PKNU agreed to increase the number of recipients from two to four in order to expand the educational opportunity and bring more benefit to talent in our member countries, including developing countries.

Recently, the global fishing industry has been facing an unprecedented crisis due to severe depletion of fisheries resources.

In deed, fishermen around the world have practiced the spirit of mutual cooperation that they learned from tough struggle at sea, although the way of life may have been different in each country. I believe that now is the time for global fisheries cooperatives to come together and overcome the current crisis in unity.

I look forward to your full attention and participation for continuous growth of the world fisheries and I hope that all of the ICFO members closely cooperate to build a sound fishing community.

I wish all of you and your family a healthy and prosperous future.

Yours Sincerely
Kim Im-kweon, ICFO Chairman

International Cooperation on Development of fisheries across the world



It seems that international cooperation on fisheries is becoming vital to overcome the crisis many countries are facing. Depletion of fisheries resources and over fishing around the world continue to threaten the world fishing industry.

Mr. Kim Im-kweon, the ICFO Chairman has tried to resolve the problem by strengthening cooperation with the ICFO member countries and developing countries. Last April, the ICFO Chairman visited the Philippines to hold discussions on the means of cooperation between the ICFO and the Philippines.

While in the Philippines, Mr. Kim met up with Mrs. Mary Therese Citoy-Cho, the Mayor of Cordova. During the meeting, the Mayor explained the difficulties faced by the fishing industry in the Philippines. According to the Mayor, the Philippines possesses abundant fishing resources and manpower, but needs to make gains in learning advanced fishing methods and skills. The mayor hoped to have close cooperation with the ICFO.

The Chairman also had an opportunity to hold talks with Mr. Adelino Baguio Sitoy, Secretary of the



Presidential Liaison Office. During that meeting, the Secretary hoped fishermen from the Philippines would have a chance to work in Korea. The Chairman agreed with his suggestion, adding that fishermen from the Philippines will be able to learn advanced skills in the field of fisheries and make a huge contribution to their national economy.

Holding the seminar with NCFCU to improve Nepalese inland fishereis



At the ICFO Annual Meeting held in India in 2016, the Chairman had a discussion with Mr. Saroj Kumar Sharma, President of Nepal Central Fishery Cooperative Union (NCFCU) on how to improve inland fisheries in Nepal.

Mr. Saroj Kumar Sharma asked the ICFO Chairman to visit Nepal to inspect Nepalese inland fisheries facilities and see what cooperation between the ICFO and NCFCU will be needed.

From 19 June to 24 June, the ICFO Chairman made it to Nepal to host a seminar with the Nepal Central Fishery Cooperative Union (NCFCU). The aim of the seminar was to support the development of Nepalese Inland Fisheries. In reference to the seminar, the ICFO Chairman made the decision to bring experts in the discipline of inland fisheries.

Two experts from National Institute of Fisheries Science delivered presentations to participants on the current status of Korean inland fisheries technology and an introduction to Korean inland fisheries. A fisheries researcher from the Nepalese side gave a presentation on the current situation of Nepalese inland fisheries.

The seminar was followed by a discussion session. During the session, participants and experts were quite active in sharing their opinions on how to elevate fisheries products in Nepal.

It is believed that the seminar brought fruitful results and was a stepping stone in the development of Nepalese inland fisheries.

ICFO Scholarship Program



The ICFO and Pukyong National University concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for nurturing talent in the fisheries field, with the ICFO Chairman, President of Pukyong National University (PKNUN), and other related participants in attendance on 24 January 2014, at Pukyong National University, Busan Korea.

This year, the ICFO Chairman and PKNUN agreed to increase the number of recipients from two to four to expand the educational opportunity.

Five college graduates from three countries, Turkey, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka, who majored in fisheries or fisheries-related fields applied for this year's scholarship. The ICFO and Pukyong National University made their decision after a careful evaluation of such factors as the undergraduate majors of applicants, English fluency, and grades in college.

This year's scholarship program went to Cebecik Ulgen and Uyan Umut from Turkey, Zaw Zaw from Myanmar, and Meregnage Isuru Umanda De Silva from Sri Lanka. They arrived in Korea on 28 August 2017 and have begun their master's course, which will span the period from September 2017 to August 2019.

The fisheries scholarship program of the ICFO is very crucial since it is designed to promote the sustainable development of world fisheries and to nurture talent in the field of fisheries of developing countries. The Program is expected to provide the two awardees with fisheries education as well as opportunities to experience the Korean fisheries cooperative movement to take the lead in advancing global fisheries.

ICFO Scholarship Program

The ICFO is making great efforts to foster talent in the fisheries fields especially in underdeveloped countries.

The ICFO and Pukyong National University concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for nurturing talent in the field of fisheries, on 24 January 2014 at Pukyong National University, Busan, Korea.

The two organizations signed the MOU, mutually recognizing the need to build up human resource in the fisheries sectors in developing countries for the

sustainable development of fisheries and a vigorous cooperative movement around the world.

Pukyong National University launched a two year graduate course for two students from developing countries, who had completed university education in fisheries or fisheries-related fields. The ICFO plans to select two university graduates annually with the support from Pukyong National University. The tuition fee is fully funded by Pukyong National University. The ICFO offers scholarship benefits such as airfare and boarding expenses including daily expenses.

Education and Training for fishermen and government officials from the Philippines



The fisheries have made a huge contribution to human history in terms of providing animal protein. However, fisheries across the world have had trouble with constant decreases in fisheries resources due to over fishing, global warming, and rapid industrialization.

Owing to fisheries resource depletion, fishermen have been led to fish more competitively, which may have resulted in more illegal fishing and damage to fishing areas across the world.

However, fisheries in the future will become growth engines, as many experts anticipate a brighter future for the industry. In order to realize this, the fishing industry must share its expertise and experiences among fisheries cooperatives worldwide. Accordingly, the ICFO invited government officials and fishermen from the Philippines to Korea from 18 September to 23 September 2017.

The guests had the opportunity to visit various fisheries facilities, such as the fish processing center of the KNFC, the FRP shipyard, aquaculture farms, and a member cooperative of the KNFC to learn about the Korean fishing industry and the major business functions the KNFC has performed.

While in Korea, the Philippine delegation was given a chance to share opinions with various experts engaged in the fisheries sector. Based on the discussion, it is believed that the government officials will consider how to apply what they learned in Korea to the Philippine fisheries when establishing policy.

It is also expected that the visit to Korea will become a breakthrough in sparking development of the fishing industry in the Philippines, spreading the cooperative movement nationwide and paving the way to transform the current outdated system for sustainable fisheries. All this will ultimately lead to the income growth of fishermen.

Publication of "KNFC's Marketing and Supply Business"

The ICFO will publish "KNFC's Marketing and Supply Business". The booklet is going to introduce the main business activities of Korean National Federation of Fisheries cooperatives, focusing on the field of Marketing and Supply in terms of Fisheries consignments, Joint markets, Fisheries price support programs and Fish markets owned by the KNFC. The ICFO is confident that the publication will become a sound example for those business areas applicable to the ICFO member countries' business.

2017 ICFO Annual Meetings



2017 ICFO annual meeting (Executive Members Meeting and General Meeting) was held on 14 November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A total of 23 participants from 9 countries were present at the meetings.

The Executive Members Meeting and General Meeting were combined as one meeting because the agendas of two meetings are identical.

In terms of World Fisheries Cooperative Day, Turkey will be the host country of the ceremony in 2018. The ICFO members unanimously approved of Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Bao (Vietnam Cooperative Alliance) and Mr. T. Prasad Rao Dora (National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives. Ltd) succeeding to the Vice-chairmanship.



Mr. Kim Im-kweon, current Chairman was reelected owing to his effort to be committed to education and training which has led to raising fishermen's status of the ICFO member countries.

It is settled that 2018 ICFO Annual meetings will be held in Iran in 2018 where ICA-AP Regional Assembly will be held.

Contribution to typhoon fund for Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)



Last November, Typhoon “Damrey” devastated the central region of Vietnam. According to local media, Damrey caused heavy casualties, demolishing lots of house located in the central region.

At the ICFO General Assembly held in Malaysia, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Bao, President of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) asked the ICFO to pay attention to damage caused by Damrey, explaining that a lot of fishermen’s fishing vessels and fish farm were damaged and made an effort to restore debris.

On hearing about the damage, the ICFO Chairman made a decision to donate USD 10,000 to the VCA and the ICFO Chairman hoped that the fund would be spent on restoring damage of Vietnamese fishermen.



Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Bao, the VCA President expressed his gratitude to the ICFO on behalf of fishermen in Vietnam, saying that the donation made by the ICFO would be a big contribution to damaged fishing villages in the central region of Vietnam.