

Inside this issue

- Message from the Chairman 01
- 2022 ICFO Annual Meetings 02
- ICFO Scholarship Program 03
- Aids for Preventing COVID-19 Infection 04
- Knowledge Sharing Program 05
- Publication of "The Fisheries Cooperatives in Korea" 06

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Message from the Chairman

Dear Cooperators

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the cooperators around the world who have dedicated themselves to the development of the world fisheries cooperative movement. I'm aware that most of cooperatives faced various obstacles in 2022 due to several external factors such as the rapid economic fluctuations and international affairs between countries.



After I was reelected as the ICFO Chairman with the full support of our members in December 2021, I have tried to establish the sustainable development of fisheries by helping not only ICFO members but also their belonged cooperators, fishermen with great responsibilities.

Still, the COVID-19 pandemic has given us many disruptions on the ICFO's action plans in 2022. In particular, the Korean Fisheries Cooperatives' Knowledge Sharing Program for developing countries couldn't be conducted. However, we couldn't just stay still, and ICFO provided meaningful help to our members in purchasing equipments related to prevention of COVID-19 infection.

Moreover, ICFO held the General Assembly this year in Seville with many help from the ICA headquarter and cooperators in Spain. It was the invaluable moment for us to have face-to-face meeting after 3 year's absence and discuss the direction of cooperative development there.

I'm also delighted to inform everyone that ICFO welcomed a new member from Africa, Coop-Cameroon, and selected one student for the ICFO scholarship program with the Pukyong National University to nurture talent in Myanmar.

In 2023, I hope that member organizations will work together and strengthen bonds to overcome difficult environment. With these continuing efforts, we would reach the development of fisheries cooperatives and fishery industry.

I wish you and your family health, happiness and prosperity next year.

Yours Sincerely

Im Joon-taek
ICFO Chairman

2022 ICFO Annual Meetings



In June 2022, the ICFO annual meeting was held in Seville, Spain. The agenda of the executive members meeting and the agenda of the general assembly were merged into one meeting.

There were reports on ICFO activities, accounting and budgeting for 2021, and progress reports on plans for 2022. In addition, the COOP-CAMEROON has been approved as a new ICFO member. Currently, ICFO has 25 organizations in 23 countries. Plus, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Bao from Vietnam Cooperatives Alliance was elected as the ICFO vice Chairman.

It was settled that 2023 ICFO Annual meetings would be held in June, 2023. The meeting place was decided as the Brussels, Belgium, where ICA General Assembly will be held.

At the present time, the world's fisheries and fishermen's right to live is severely being threatened by many issues such as resource depletion, destruction of marine ecosystems, sea sand mining, and offshore wind power generation. The unilateral promotion of international trade agreements also infringes fishermen's right to live.

Furthermore, the Russia-Ukraine war has made people recognize the value of food security anew and it has become an inevitable matter for human survival.

Fisheries cooperatives should work together to solve these imminent challenges in the fisheries centering on the ICA International Cooperative Fisheries Organization.

Regarding all the risks mentioned above, the ICFO adopted the "Statement of Fisheries Cooperators" at the 2022 ICFO General Assembly in Seville.

**Statement of the Fisheries Cooperators
for the Conservation of the Marine Environment
and the Protection of Fishermen's Right to Live**

In order to protect the sea, the foundation of human life, and for the sustainable development of fisheries, fisheries cooperators from all over the world demand the following.

We demand that countries around the world recognize the serious destruction of marine ecosystems caused by climate change, reclamation, sea sand mining, and offshore wind power generation, and make efforts to preserve the marine environment, the basis of human life.

We recognize the value of fisheries products anew for overcoming the global food security crisis caused by the Ukraine war, and oppose any actions that impede the supply of safe seafood, such as the one-sided discharge of contaminated water from the Fukushima Nuclear Power plant into the ocean.

We oppose the reckless and unilateral promotion of international trade agreements that disregard the reality of fisheries, and demand that countries around the world strive to protect fishermen's right to live.

We, fisheries cooperators, contribute to world peace through the prosperity of fisheries by cooperating with countries and international organizations around the world, centering on the ICA International Cooperative Fisheries Organization.

June 19, 2022
International Fisheries Cooperators

ICFO Scholarship Program



The ICFO is making great efforts to foster talents in the fisheries fields especially in developing countries.

This year, the 9th ICFO 2-year master's degree scholarship program went to Htet Linn Ko Ko from Myanmar who applied to major in Fisheries Business and Economics. The ICFO and Pukyong National University made a decision after careful consideration of several factors, including the applicant's undergraduate major, English proficiency, and grades in college.

In addition, Hasini, the 7th ICFO scholarship student, completed her studies this year. She has studied Fisheries Business and Economics for two years, and graduated from her master's program with honors.

The scholarship programs of the ICFO are very crucial cause they are designed to promote the sustainable development of the world's fisheries and to nurture talents in the fisheries sector in developing countries. A total of 21 students from 6 countries have been supported by this program for their master's degree since the program was launched.

ICFO Scholarship Program

The ICFO fosters talents in the fisheries fields especially in developing countries. The ICFO and Pukyong National University concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for nurturing talents 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 up to 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.

Aids for Preventing COVID-19 Infection



The COVID-19 pandemic has been harassing humanity since 2020 and affecting the world economy seriously. The pandemic is widening the gap between developed and developing countries, the rich and the poor. It has been threatening the health of many people including fishermen, who can't have access to adequate health care around the world.

Hereby, ICFO supported the purchase of equipments related to infection prevention. Masks and sanitizers are considered one of the most reliable ways to prevent infection. ICFO believes that it is a basic principle to help each other among members, and hopes that this aid would help protect the lives of fishermen in the member countries and strengthen its efforts to help ICFO members.

As a result, about 60,000 sheets of masks and 120 bottles of sanitizers were distributed to cooperatives in Vietnam and Nepal.

Knowledge Sharing Program



For a long time, fisheries have played a major role in providing food to sustain human life. However, the global fishery industry is facing an unprecedented crisis due to increased operating costs due to high oil prices, a sharp decrease in fishery resources, increased marine pollution, global abnormal temperatures.

Nevertheless, the fishery industry is a key industry that will never disappear, and continuous development is necessary for the survival of mankind. To realize this growth, it is needed to share the expertise and experience of fisheries cooperatives around the world.

Accordingly, ICFO has invited many countries to visit various fishery facilities such as the Fisheries University, National Fisheries Science Institute, fish farm, and member cooperatives, and also shared fishermen support projects run by fisheries cooperatives in Korea. Unfortunately, the knowledge sharing program could not be carried out in 2022 due to the aftermath of COVID-19, but just as ICFO supported the field trip of Pukyong National University graduate students to the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives this year, ICFO will continue sharing experiences in the future to contribute to the development of the global fishery industry.

Publication of “The Fisheries Cooperatives in Korea”



The ICFO published a “The Fisheries Cooperative in Korea” in December 2022. It introduces the major businesses of Fisheries cooperatives in Korea and shares the current status on the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Korea National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives.

This publication would be helpful to understand the development of fisheries cooperatives in terms of the nature of cooperatives. It comprehensively describes the background and development processes of major services about not only education and support projects but also economic businesses(such as consignment sales and tax-free oil), mutual aid and bank businesses.