

## Inside this issue

- Message from the Chairman 01
- 2023 ICFO Annual Meetings 02
- ICFO Scholarship Program 03
- Fisheries Support Program 04
- Knowledge Sharing Program 05

## NEWSLETTER

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ICFO Newsletter

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## Message from the Chairman

Dear Cooperators

Firstly, I extend my sincere gratitude to all those dedicated to the advancement of the fisheries industry worldwide and the cooperative movement.

In March of this year, I was elected as the 26th president of KNFC, representing the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative of the Republic of Korea. Also, in accordance with ICFO rules, I have assumed the role of ICFO Chairman, succeeding the former 6th ICFO Chairman with the support of our members. It is both a great honor and a profound responsibility to hold the position representing fisheries cooperatives globally.

Despite the challenges our fisheries industry faces, including changes in fishing environments due to climate change and marine environmental pollution, I earnestly request that fisheries cooperatives from various countries collaborate through ICFO. We have to exert our efforts for the sustainable development of the global fisheries industry together.

ICFO also will continue to gather members' opinions through events such as the General Assembly and persist in efforts to make a better fisheries industry, including ICFO scholarship programs for the cultivation of global fisheries talent and support for ICFO member organizations.

I sincerely hope that the coming year 2024 will be a year filled with continuous development and a brighter future.

Yours Sincerely

No Dong Jin  
ICFO Chairman



## 2023 ICFO Annual Meetings



In June 2023, the General Assembly of International Cooperative Alliance(ICA) took place in Brussels, Belgium, where the ICA Global Office is located. Concurrently, the ICFO also held our regular meeting in the same city, aligning with the schedule of the ICA GA. This year's regular meeting included the Executive Members meeting.

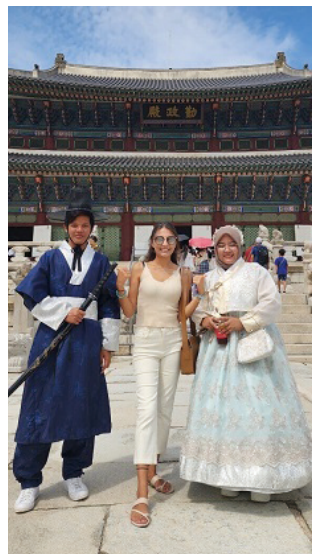
Firstly, Mr. No Dong Jin, the President of the Korean National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, succeeded the remaining term of the 6th ICFO Chairman with unanimous approval from attending members. Additionally, Mr. Akram Yosef, the Secretary General of Palestine's ESDC, was elected as the auditor of ICFO.

Decisions regarding the approval of the ICFO's 2023 activity plans and budget were made, and discussions were held regarding the 2024 business plan and the next meeting. The upcoming annual meeting is scheduled to take place in India.

Other agendas covered guidance of the ICA board member activities of the ICFO Chairman, support for hosting the 2030 Busan World Expo, and discussions on enhancing exchanges and collaboration among member cooperatives for the revitalization of ICFO.



## ICFO Scholarship Program



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

This year, the 8th and 9th ICFO scholarship students, are going to complete their studies in Pukyong National University(PKNU). Each of them has studied Fisheries Biology and Marine Biology for two years.

In addition, this year's 10th ICFO 2-year master's degree scholarship program is supposed to go to a university graduate from Myanmar. 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 particular, there was a meeting focused on activating the scholarship program. Discussions took place regarding continued MOU between ICFO and Pukyong National University, with a focus on the operation of the ICFO scholarship program. Suggestions from scholarship students related to this program were also gathered. Additionally, support for cultural experience events for students was provided, enhancing the students' academic experience.

A total of 22 students from 6 countries have been supported by this program for their master's degree since the program was launched in 2014.

### 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.

## Fisheries Support Program



The ICFO firmly believes that activities aimed at promoting the development of the global fisheries industry and strengthening bonds among member cooperatives and fisheries organizations are essential. Consequently, the ICFO implemented a project to support the purchase of fisheries-related equipment considering the local fisheries environment of each organization.

In this project, active participation was observed from various ICFO member organizations, including Vietnam, Palestine, Nepal, and others. Purchases were made for items such as fishing nets, small-scale fishing gears, and some devices to promote the development of the fisheries industry.

As a result, more than eight cooperatives in different countries including approximately 600 belonged members received help from this project.



## 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 since 2020 due to the aftermath of COVID-19. However, ICFO will continue sharing experiences in the future to contribute to the development of the global fishery industry.