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Message from the Chairman

Dear Cooperators

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have dedicated themselves to the development of the global fisheries cooperative movement this year.

In particular, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to ICFO members around the world who have worked hard to develop the fisheries industry even in difficult situations such as the global economic recession and the strained international relations that continued in 2024.

Since I was appointed as ICFO President in June 2023 with the full support of the members, I have worked hard to build a sustainable fisheries industry by helping not only ICFO members but also affiliated cooperative members and fishermen.

In particular, this year, following last year, we have supported the purchase of fisheries-related equipment for member countries, so that fishermen in member countries can enjoy practical benefits in the field.

In addition, we have selected one new scholarship student this year through the fisheries scholarship program that is ongoing with Pukyong National University in Korea to foster fisheries talent.

2025 is the second 'International Year of Cooperatives' designated by the United Nations(UN), following 2012.

As the president of ICFO, I will do my best to further strengthen the development of the fisheries industry and cooperatives in 2025, the 'International Year of Cooperatives'.

I sincerely hope that 2025 will be filled with more achievements and development.



Yours Sincerely

No Dong Jin
ICFO Chairman

Meeting with Director-General of the ICA



Jeroen Douglas, Director-General of the International Cooperative Alliance(ICA), Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA Asia and the Pacific met with No Dong-Jin, Chairman of the ICFO, and discussed development plans for cooperatives and fisheries cooperatives.

At this meeting, Chairman No Dong-jin expressed his intention to actively participate in ICA's diverse activities as 2025 has been designated as the 'International Year of Cooperatives(IYC)' by the UN to Secretary-General Jeroen Douglas, who is visiting Korea for the first time since his appointment as ICA Secretary-General earlier this year.



He also said, "The UN's redesignation of next year as the IYC is a recognition of the social and economic importance of cooperatives," and added, "We will work to develop international cooperatives."

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, completed 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 11th ICFO 2-year master's degree scholarship program is supposed to go to a university graduate from Indonesia. 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.

A total of 23 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

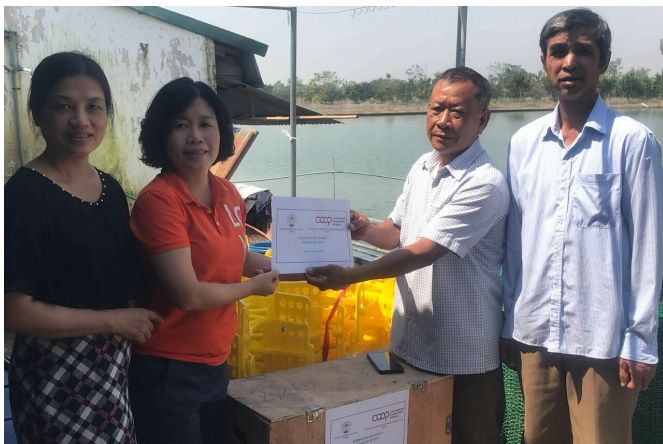
The ICFO fosters talents in the fisheries fields especially in developing countries. The ICFO and Pukyong National University concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for nurturing talents in the field of fisheries, on 24 January 2014 at Pukyong National University, Busan, Korea.

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. Purchases were made for items such as oxygen generating spinning wheel, wave generator and some devices to promote the development of the fisheries industry.

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