

Report of the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB)

January-June, 2018

During the period the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB) was associated in organisation of two important events, one National workshop and other triennial event of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), the ISAFE3.

1. Workshop on “Biodiversity of River Ganga and its Conservation for Sustainable Fisheries”

For holistic fisheries development of River Ganga, a Workshop on ‘Biodiversity of river Ganga and its Conservation for Sustainable Fisheries’ was organised by the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) in collaboration with the National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG), Inland Fisheries Society of India (IFSI), Barrackpore and the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB) at the premises of the ICAR-CIFRI on 15th March, 2018. During the inaugural ceremony, Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI and President, IFSI welcomed the participants which was followed by the address by the Dr. Sandeep Behera, Consultant, Biodiversity, NMCG, New Delhi who emphasised the need for holistic approach for biodiversity conservation and restoring ecological integrity. Dr. Amallesh Choudhury, Retd. Professor of the Calcutta University gave a historical perspectives of the Ganga with regards to fisheries and biodiversity. Prof. R. K. Sinha, Vice Chancellor of the Nalanda Open University, Bihar opined the need for adoption of basin approach for research and development in rivers and also echoed the importance of the time series data generated by the CIFRI on various aspects of ecology and biodiversity for effective planning and decision making. Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science), ICAR, New Delhi and Chairman of AFSIB in his presidential address urged the CIFRI to come out with a pragmatic roadmap for River Ganga. He emphasised the necessity of minimum environmental flow in all stretches of the river Ganga and its branches to conserve the biodiversity and ecological integrity, and urged for bringing synergy in the programme and collaborate with interested like-minded organisations/people in the activities of NMCG.

During this sensitisation workshop several lead presentations were made by the invited speakers on different thematic areas, including fish biodiversity, status of fisheries, ecology, conservation measures taken, riverine health assessment, etc. Over 200 delegates participated in the Workshop.



2. The 3rd International Symposium on Aquaculture and Fisheries Education (ISAFE3)

The 3rd International Symposium on Aquaculture and Fisheries Education (ISAFE3), the triennial event of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), was organized by the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai, India in collaboration with the Indian Fisheries Association (IFA) and Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB) at CIFE, Mumbai, India during 16-18 May, 2018. The theme of the Symposium was "Fisheries Education for Sustainable Blue Economy".

The Symposium was inaugurated by Shri Mahadev Jankar, the Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, Gov't of Maharashtra as the Chief Guest on 16th May 2018, in the presence of other luminaries like Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board; Dr. J.K. Jena, President of the AFS and DDG (Fisheries Science),

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Dr. C. Virapat, Director General, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA), Thailand; Prof. S.J. Kaushik, European Research Area (ERA) Chair Professor, and Dr. Gopal Krishna, Director, ICAR-CIFE and Convenor of the ISAFE3.

In his address, Dr. Jena emphasized that the 3 Es of 'sustainability' - Economy, Equity and Ecology as the main concerns present times and urged for focusing on transformation of fisheries education system by bringing the teachers and students together. Dr. Kaushik underlined the importance of strong international linkages for improving education. Dr. Virapat expressed the necessity of bridging the urban and rural gap through education. In his Keynote Address, Dr. Kakodkar emphasised the necessity of the knowledge bridge between cities and villages, and conveyed his desire that the institutions located in the villages may serve as the links between advanced knowledge generated in the universities and deeper dissemination and adoption of technologies in the villages.

The 3-days event was attended by 260 participants, including delegates from 10 countries. The Symposium had six major Technical Sessions on various themes, viz., Education for a sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; Attracting and retaining youth in the sector; Climate change and environmental concerns through fisheries education; Skill development through training and informal education; Entrepreneurship development and a special session on Course Curricula in Asia-Pacific region for better job opportunities. Besides oral presentations, including invited talks by lead speakers, the Symposium also had a Poster Session in which as many as 72 posters were presented. An exhibition was also organized on this occasion, in which research institutes and industry partners participated.

The Plenary and Valedictory function was held on 18th May, 2018, in which Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR was the Chief Guest. In his address, Dr. Mohapatra emphasized on intellectual content of the syllabus, inquisitiveness in the classroom teaching, and necessity of sincerity and dedication for enriching learning process. He suggested that teachers must evaluate themselves and build themselves to discuss cutting-edge research areas with the students. He also urged for improving the education system by upgrading the faculty and exciting the young minds, and wished to have greater collaboration and co-ordination by different national and international organisations. In this

Valedictory function, Dr. Jena emphasized the need for transforming the sector through advanced education and building a futuristic students community with knowledge and skill. Dr. S. D. Tripathi, Former Director, ICAR-CIFE and Dr. C. Virapat also spoke on the occasion and underlined the need for linkages of the institutions for betterment of education system and skilling the professionals. The program ended with vote of thanks by Dr. N. P. Sahu, Dean (A), CIFE, Mumbai.



Book Release during Inauguration of ISAFE3



Valedictory Function ISAFE3



Participants of the ISAFE3 during the Technical Session