

JOINING THE DOTS - BRINGING TOGETHER STRATEGY, WOMEN AND MEN TO ADDRESS GENDER ISSUE IN AQUACULTURE

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Intelligence emerges as a system connects to itself in new and diverse ways. Currently there is insufficient awareness, information and action for gender issues in aquaculture. This deficit is not due to an absence of concerned people, or an absence of potential strategies and policies. As a women passionate about aquaculture, I identify one key barrier to 'change making' is our capacity to effectively join the dots between people and strategy. Change for women working in aquaculture will gain momentum once we have united an engaged network of people and adapted existing tactics.

To illustrate the available strategies and people that could improve gender equity in aquaculture this presentation will provide two case studies, and finally promote a new platform that will help connect these resources. The first case study will examine successful gender equality strategies developing within Australia's powerful and well-resourced finance sector. This industry also has an innate gender imbalance and is a great place to learn tactics for the aquaculture industry.

The second case study highlights the wonderful women and men involved in the newly formed Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF) network. This network is a new initiative which aims to address women and gender issues. The diversity of people already involved is inspiring.

AwF Women and Gender Network could potentially be the podium needed to bring together the tools and people for meaningful change. AwF Women and Gender network hopes to connect women and men in new and diverse ways to find intelligent solutions for gender issues in aquaculture.