

**8th Asian Fisheries Forum
20 -23 November 2007
Kochi, India**

**2nd GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER
AND FISHERIES
21 November 2007**



**Report Back to the Forum Closing Ceremony, 23
November 2007**

The 2nd Global Symposium on Gender and Fisheries sought ‘solutions through research’. We found that looking at fisheries and aquaculture through the gender lens always gives a better, more complete picture – one that is better focused and provides the basis for understanding fisheries issues and taking more appropriate action. Our presenters and authors came from 14 countries in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. Participants and chairs included all those coordinating key gender and social action networks for fisheries.

Gender and fisheries research is a new field. This Symposium continued the trend towards presentation of new and original research looking at significant fisheries and aquaculture issues through the gender lens. We covered inland and coastal resource management and aquaculture, income, fish processing, trade, and globalization, nutrition and human health, gender mainstreaming in fisheries projects and models for successful fishing / fish farming families/communities. Discussion was lively and presenters’ research conclusions were tested for their applicability to policy and practice.

Some of the highlights were:

1. As a result of the 2001 Women in Fisheries Symposium at the 6th AFF where we reported of the problems of HIV/AIDS and fisheries, Uganda, and the other Lake Victoria countries now have specific strategies and actions for overcoming the problem in fishing communities;
2. Gender research in Tripura state, India influenced the Government to consider a family approach to all aquaculture support programs. India is very active in analyzing and improving its models of extension to reach women and men;
3. Hard data were reported from many studies on the full extent of unpaid and under recognized work that women do in the fish supply chain. However, legal and technical difficulties persist when countries formally recognize women’s contributions in their welfare systems, even in Europe
4. Options for coastal resource access and income diversification from aquatic resources have declined for all the small scale fishing communities studied, whether in Malaysia, India or Africa. Fishing communities typically have missed the economic miracles of otherwise successful human development, such as the Kerala Model and Malaysia.

5. Studying the whole fish supply chain through a gender lens can provide much greater clarity of where and how to make successful interventions to remove small scale household vulnerabilities.
6. Booming fish trade has created many opportunities for women's labour but these are often exploitative. Trade has also created greater competition for fish and taken much access to the product away from women small scale processors and vendor. Trade has also rushed ahead in many countries without due regard to the sustainability of the fisheries.
7. Data mining techniques can provide fruitful insights into many dimensions of fisheries and aquaculture participation when gender disaggregated statistics are available.

A lively networks meeting yesterday agreed to:

- Cooperate on the forthcoming ICSF bibliography of gender and fisheries sources;
- Cooperate in sharing university curriculum and case studies on gender and fisheries and encourage fisheries schools to include gender studies as standard; and
- Ensure that the Kochi declaration appropriately reflects the policy implications of solutions found through gender research.

Through the Asian Fisheries Society, we will shortly be posting a short summary of the highlights of the 2nd Global Gender Symposium for all to see. We thank Dr Mohan Joseph and all the 8AFF team for their excellent support. Thank you.