AFS GENDER AND FISHERIES NETWORKING EXPERIENCES: WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOESN’T WORK

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Globally, the fish sector has paid little attention to women or gender in aquaculture and fisheries, and that effort has waxed and waned in the 30 plus years since the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), a mainstream professional body founded in 1984, has maintained a continuous but swelling effort since 1990 when the Indian Branch organized a Women in Fisheries in India Workshop. The Society’s contributions, although continuous, have been opportunistic and relied on a patchwork of small resources contributed by people prepared to act as leaders and contributors, and explicit and implicit organizational support, including small amounts of donor cash funds. Coupled with the lack of funding and policy attention to gender in the fish sector, progress has been slow but seems to be accelerating as major institutions and donors pick up on gender equity. The work by AFS in keeping the torch burning has taught many lessons, on what has worked, what opportunities have been used and where opportunities may have been lost.

This presentation will analyze the AFS experience, using actor-network theory, to better understand what has happened and how different actors in the AFS process have viewed their roles and the processes entailed.