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The First Newsletter of the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section of the Asian Fisheries Society

Issue 1, 2019

Photo credit: Balaram Mahalder/WorldFish

Message from the editor



Surendran Rajaratnam
Newsletter Editor
Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section
Asian Fisheries Society

Surendran Rajaratnam is a Senior Research Analyst at WorldFish, based in Penang, Malaysia. Since joining WorldFish in 2013, his research has focused on gender norms, roles and relations within small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Surendran has a particular interest in studying men and masculinities using a mixed-methods approach. He is currently pursuing his PhD at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section (GAF Section) of the Asian Fisheries Society. I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the GAF Section for appointing me as a committee member in 2018 and as editor of this first newsletter, which will be published annually.

It is an honor to join the GAF Section, which was formed to bring together a range of actors in fisheries and aquaculture to advance gender research and practice. I recall my initial experience with one of the section's main events, the GAF5 conference in Lucknow, India in 2014, which was a side event of the larger 10th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum. All the presentations were conducted in one room, without any parallel sessions. Fast forward four years, and GAF7 was a standalone conference, with numerous parallel sessions. The number of oral presentations alone had risen from 21 in the former event to 78 in the latter. Apart from the increase in presentations and participants, the geographical coverage had also expanded from predominantly Asia at GAF5 to global at GAF7. This progress is attributable to the hard work and energy of the team as well as a growing realization of the importance of gender in fisheries and aquaculture.

In this newsletter, we provide a summary of GAF7 and an overview of the exciting events that took place in 2018 as well as those coming up in 2019 and beyond. We feature an interesting intervention by USAID Oceans, which emphasizes gender equity for sustainable fisheries. We also highlight a blog that examines a range of perspectives and methods employed by researchers and practitioners who participated in GAF7 to enable women's empowerment and gender equality.

In addition, we introduce you to the GAF Section Executive Committee and update you on the section's membership along with news of its members. As we can cover only some of the incredible work that the section and its members are involved in, we encourage you to check out the list of communication channels on page 15 for links to additional information.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as I enjoyed putting it together. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish you a productive and rewarding 2019.

Message from the section chair

From forming the section to projects to achieve our objectives



Meryl Williams
Section Chair
Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section
Asian Fisheries Society

I'm delighted to present to you the first GAF Section newsletter, which marks a new milestone in establishing the section. Although most of you will be more familiar with our history since the official launch in 2017, we can trace our ancestry back to 1990 in the Women in Indian Fisheries Workshop at the first Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch Fisheries Forum. See a short version of our milestones here. Many steps later, in 2014, during a meeting at GAF5 in Lucknow, our informal network made the decision to become formal, and thus began the real process of creating the section.

From 1990 to taking the leap to becoming a formal section in 2014 seems like a long time, but our path, on reflection, was deliberate. Along the way, we became more experienced in conducting conferences and publishing the results, spreading news and research updates on the web and via email, and acting as an informal hub for the like-minded. As we grew and gained strength, the time arrived to become more formal. Now, we have most of the 'infrastructure' of the section—the approved bylaws, an elected Executive Committee, the start of a Secretariat, our first standalone conference (Expanding the Horizons—GAF7), policies, including a partnership policy, and now a newsletter. The next stage of our journey is planning and carrying out projects that will serve our objectives. Our conferences are one such project, but what others should we be doing?

Our objectives, paraphrased, are to: promote cooperation; enhance visibility of the importance of gender; advocate the advancement of women; and promote the establishment of other networks and organizations involved in gender issues. Our recent gender equality statement, From catch to consumer: Why gender matters in aquaculture and fisheries, lays out what needs to be done. The actions match our objectives well: counting women and making them visible; increasing funding to gender a hundredfold; supporting women's empowerment; and collaborating on gender.

We seem to be at a historic point where much more attention is being given to the importance of gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries, but we know that we cannot rest and assume that progress will roll on.

I conclude by issuing a challenge to you: what actions and projects should our section undertake to promote the progress needed? Send us your ideas through our email group!



GAF7 summary

Empowering, counting and hearing women: GAF7 showcases gender equality progress and challenges

By Meryl Williams, Veena N, Kyoko Kusakabe, Cherdsak Virapat, Nikita Gopal, Salin Krishna and Danika Kleiber

In 2018, the GAF Section hosted our first standalone event: GAF7. This was an exciting opportunity to create a platform for sharing the latest research on gender in aquaculture and fisheries, learning new methods and approaches, launching new training products and crafting a vision for the future of our research field. GAF7 followed 28 years of women and gender symposia and workshops supported by the Asian Fisheries Society and its Indian Branch.

GAF7 was hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok from 18–21 October 2018. It included three intense days of conference and side events plus a well-attended field trip. Event co-organizers included the GAF Section, the AIT and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific. It was sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (Platinum), WorldFish (Gold), the Crawford Fund, USAID Oceans, Plan International, Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (Silver) and the Commission on Gender and Geography (Bronze), and had 17 partners and supporters from Asia, Australia and beyond.

Our participants were geographically diverse, coming from 28 countries. The 149 participants represented: Africa (4 percent), Asia (72 percent), Europe (5 percent), North America (7 percent), Oceania and Australia (7 percent) and South America and the Caribbean (5 percent); 81 percent of attendees were women and 19 percent men.

GAF7 was vibrant, from the opening session in which Dr. Eden Woon, President of the AIT, welcomed us, and Dr. Darian McBain, Global Director for Sustainable Development, Thai Union, delivered the keynote address, to the final prize-giving and closing session. At the opening ceremony, Dr. Amonrat Sermwatanakul, Senior Executive Expert in Fisheries Management, Department of Fisheries, Thailand Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, was presented with a special plaque recognizing her promotion of gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries, including through receiving the Grand Award for Excellence in Human Rights Protection and Gender Equality Promotion (Public Sector) from the Prime Minister of Thailand.

This was also our biggest event to date. GAF7 offered abundant choices among the 95 research presentations (78 oral and 17 posters), grouped into eight thematic sessions and nine workshops, run in four parallel sessions, each well attended and including participatory learning techniques. Most importantly, during discussions within the formal settings of sessions and workshops, as well as informal discussions in the hallways and over shared meals, participants explored GAF issues, shared experiences, learned from each other and built professional networks as well as friendships.

While discussing gender issues in aquaculture and fisheries, GAF7 did not forget gender issues in conference participation either. We put theory into practice by offering free childcare services to all participants, which allowed researchers and writers with young children to join in the immense sharing and learning experiences the conference offered. This facility was much appreciated by all delegates and would be a welcome service at all Asian Fisheries Society conferences, regardless of topic.

The conference also focused on sharing the latest gender research approaches, including the gender-transformative approach, and applying feminist intersectionality. Other areas were innovative technologies, women's collective action and photovoice.



Dr. Darian McBain delivering the keynote address



Dr. Amonrat Sermwatanakul with the GAF7 plaque recognizing her promotion of gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries.

* *Adapted and republished from the Asian Fisheries Society newsletter.*

Session themes	
I.	Gender assessments in fisheries and aquaculture
II.	Gender-disaggregated statistics
III.	Gender and the seafood industry
IV.	Gender and fisheries and aquaculture governance
V.	Gender and climate change with reference to fisheries and aquaculture
VI.	Focus on SDG 5, and other SDGs, in fisheries and aquaculture
VII.	Gender research methods in fisheries and aquaculture
VIII.	Learning exchanges—experiences and lessons
Special workshops	
I.	Photovoice: Researching gender in aquaculture and fisheries through the camera lens (Janine Pierce, Aquaculture without Frontiers Australia)
II.	GAF 101: Using 'intersectionality' in research on gender and fisheries and aquaculture. A GAF 101 training session (Marilyn Porter and Holly Hapke)
III.	Plan International SEAS for Change project (Sadia Tahseen and Iris Caluag)
IV.	Furthering/deepening feminist perspectives in fisheries (Nalini Nayak and Cornelie Quist)
V.	Exploring gender equity and equality in the SSF Guidelines (Danika Kleiber, Whitney Yadao-Evans and Cynthia McDougall)
VI.	Role of women fishworker organizations towards implementation and monitoring of SSF Guidelines; the case of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) (Editrudith Lukanga and Kafayat Adetoun Fakoya)
VII.	Gender-transformative approaches in fisheries and aquaculture: An exploration of strategies and emerging outcomes (Cynthia McDougall)
VIII.	Gender analysis through micro and small aquaculture operation (MiSAO) best aquaculture practices (Zumilah Binti Zainalaludin)
IX.	Mainstreaming gender in fisheries education (Mary Barby Badayos-Jover, Arpita Sharma, Kyoko Kusakabe, Salin Krishna and Kumi Soejima)

The outstanding student presenters



Angela Cruz (presenter), Patrick Christie and Alan White: 'Addressing gender gaps from a programmatic perspective'.

Veena N (presenter) and Kyoko Kusakabe: 'Migrant women's strategies to cope with employment practices in the Thai food sector: A case study from Rayong and Trat'.





Sarah Lawless: 'From resistance to internalization: The spread of "gender equality" in small-scale fisheries governance'.

Benedict Carmelita (presenter), Alice Joan Ferrer, Jinky Hopanda, Herminia Francisco and Canesio Predo: 'Gender differences in possession of unused livelihood skills and desire to be involved in livelihood opportunities in coastal households in the Philippines'.



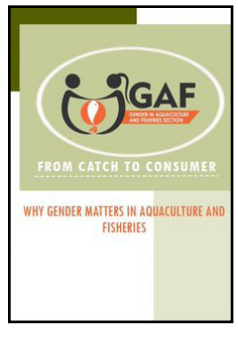
Partners for impact

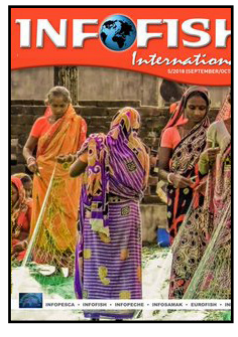
Products and events

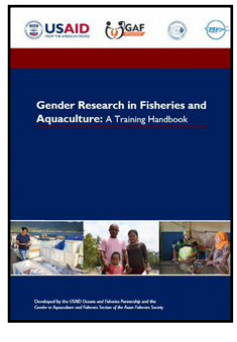
In addition to the GAF conference website and an e-book of abstracts, the GAF Section launched its new website and policy brief, 'Fishing for equality: Why gender matters in aquaculture and fisheries'. The policy brief highlights the key actions that are needed to make real progress toward gender equality, all of which were raised and discussed at the conference.

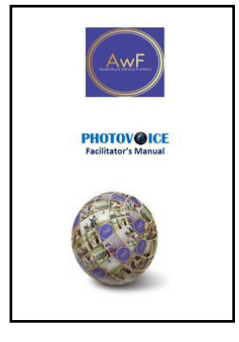
- To count women: key stakeholders, e.g. fisheries agencies need to collect regular and accurate gender-specific employment data on the catch-to-consumer pathway to track trends and progress.
- By supporting women's empowerment: women can collaborate, assert their rights and upgrade their capacity, which requires funding and support for education, advocacy and legal resources.
- To make women more visible: gender equality must be a stated priority in policy, research and development programs.
- Investment into targeted gender projects: research and educational outreach needs to increase significantly, even a hundredfold, to achieve impact.













Expanding our future horizons: group photo at the GAF7 closing session.

Other GAF7 products and side events were:

- *INFOFISH International* magazine cover story in the Sep/October issue 'Expanding the Horizons: From Nurturing Fish to Nurturing Society' by Meryl Williams, Nikita Gopal, Kyoko Kusakabe, Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit and Hillary Egna.
- USAID training materials: *Gender Research in Fisheries and Aquaculture: A Training Handbook*. USAID, Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section, Asian Fisheries Society and SEAFDEC.
- Photovoice: Researching gender in aquaculture and fisheries through the camera lens. Dr. Janine Pierce: Special Workshop 1: GAF7 manual. Aquaculture without Frontiers Australia, University of South Australia.
- Plan International in Asia launched their new publication *Into the Light: Young Female Migrant Workers in Thailand's Seafood Sector and their Access to Decent Work*.
- Winning entries from the Women in Seafood video competition organized by the International Association for Women in the Seafood Industry (WSI) were screened on the last day of the conference.
- Caribbean Corner event: Conducted by the Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) led by the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies, Barbados, this event focused attention on gender in fisheries in the Caribbean and the activities of GIFT, a GAF7 partner.
- Field trip: An excellent field trip, very well organized by the Thailand Department of Fisheries, enabled participants to see catfish production and processing and to visit an ornamental fish farm and a fish landing site at Khlong 4.

Finally, GAF7 used media and outreach products to inform participants and the public about the key events and findings. We had a primary media release, six press stories, a concluding blog, vibrant social media commentary (under the hashtag #Fishing4Equality) and other press stories.

- Media release: 'From catch to consumer: Empowering, counting and hearing women in fisheries. Experts to gather at 7th Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference'.
- Six media stories:
  - 'Transforming gender relations in the Caribbean to support SDGs';
  - 'Seaweed farming provides benefits for women and communities';
  - 'Photovoice: A high-impact research method that empowers women';
  - 'Financial literacy reduces risks of women from small islands in Philippines';
  - 'Using intersectionality to address women's problems in fisheries';
  - 'A deeper feminist perspective to benefit fish and fishing communities'.
- DevEx article 'Where are the women in aquaculture and fisheries?' by Lisa Cornish.
- Blog 'Empowering, counting and hearing women: GAF7 showcases gender equality progress and challenges' by Kate Bevitt.
- Twelve social media cards featuring key facts and figures about GAF.
- WorldFish video Transforming gender research.

New research and projects



Photo credit: USAID Oceans

Featured blog

USAID Oceans launches new grants to support gender equitable, fair and prosperous fisheries

By Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit, Gender Integration Specialist, USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership, and Melinda Donnelly, Senior Communications and Outreach Manager, USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership

Women make up half of Southeast Asia's fisheries sector, often performing key processing and selling work that gets the seafood caught to local and international markets. Human welfare and gender equity are therefore critical and emerging areas of interest in fisheries management.

USAID Oceans is a five-year program that works to strengthen regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and promote sustainable fisheries, in order to conserve marine biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region. USAID Oceans is a collaboration between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), SEAFDEC and the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). USAID Oceans supports its partner countries to develop and implement electronic

catch documentation and traceability (eCDT) systems that support data-driven sustainable fisheries management, enhance human welfare, including increased gender equity, and bridge the private and public sector to create economic opportunity.

USAID Oceans strongly believes that work for human welfare and gender equity should be embedded within all of its technical activities. As part of this strategy, USAID Oceans awarded grants to the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines (WinFish) and Perkumpulan KELOLA in Indonesia to implement the program's strategic area on 'Raising Awareness of Gender Equity and Women Empowerment in Fisheries Management' at USAID Oceans' learning sites in General Santos City, Philippines and Bitung, Indonesia. The grantees will work in close coordination with USAID Oceans and its local and regional partners to promote gender equity, and engage women and men for increased welfare within the sector through capacity building, advocacy and empowerment.

Their activities will specifically involve: enhancing the capacity of local stakeholders, particularly women, to implement an equitable and fair eCDT system under an ecosystem approach to fisheries management; identifying, engaging and empowering relevant local stakeholders across the value chain (i.e. from capture and landing through to buyers, processors, exporters and other intermediaries) to improve their capacity to address human welfare and gender integration needs; and engaging local leaders and 'champions' to develop and advance policies and legal frameworks that promote gender equity and human welfare.

These activities were initiated from the findings of gender analyses conducted by USAID Oceans at the learning sites in 2016–2017, which show that the fisheries sector operates with gender-specific roles along the fisheries value chain. The analyses provided recommendations to strengthen the capacity of various stakeholders, particularly the women, in the areas of eCDT and EAFM to support the program's objectives. These recommendations included identifying 'gender champions' to encourage, empower and create sustainable fisheries; supporting gender-responsive policies and legal instruments; building and improving capacity of relevant stakeholders; and conducting further research and analysis.

Both grantees have extensive experience in implementing gender and community-based activities in national and local fisheries and coastal resources management.

KELOLA has been working to increase the welfare of coastal people in Indonesia since its establishment in 1995. The organization supports sustainable use of natural resources and works to increase the knowledge of coastal people in managing these natural and marine resources. It has been working to use community-based resource management to protect environments and livelihoods from a variety of damaging activities. It actively participates in developing and supporting regulations that protect the environment, fisheries and human rights.

WinFish was established in 2000 with a vision to create a gender-fair society and a gender-responsive fisheries sector in the Philippines. The organization strives to increase the awareness of women's roles in fisheries, improve women's quality of life through advocacy and networking and develop a more focused direction for fisheries-related activities of women, in partnership with men. WinFish is well informed of the gender dynamics in the program's General Santos City learning site, as the group partnered with USAID Oceans in 2016–2017 to conduct a gender analysis of the General Santos City tuna fisheries sector.

USAID Oceans will monitor the success of gender interventions over the course of 2019 using a set of relevant and credible gender-sensitive indicators, as well as observation of impacts within the fisheries value chain relating to equitable and fair social and labor conditions. Learning site results will be shared with USAID Oceans' regional partners to promote a more equitable, fair and prosperous fisheries sector across Southeast Asia.

For more information on how to integrate gender into your organization's work, download USAID Oceans' training handbook, developed in collaboration with the GAF Section.



Photo credit: USAID Oceans

Featured blog

Gender equality progress and challenges on show at GAF7

By Kate Bevitt

Emerging research methods and unique technologies that empower and benefit women, alongside women fishworkers' organizations around the world, are helping to close the gender gap in fisheries and aquaculture. But more still needs to be done to ensure that women are heard, counted and empowered in local to international policy and decision-making arenas.

> *The seafood industry doesn't work if there's no women, just like it doesn't work if there's no fish. The world needs seafood to feed, and the industry needs women to make it happen*
>
> *– Dr. Darian McBain*
> *Thai Union*

These were the key themes that emerged from GAF7 in Bangkok on 18–21 October 2018, which brought together around 150 experts, researchers and practitioners to discuss strategies to enhance gender inclusiveness and equality.

"The seafood industry doesn't work if there's no women, just like it doesn't work if there's no fish. The world needs seafood to feed, and the industry needs women to make it happen," said Dr. Darian McBain, Global Director for Sustainable Development, Thai Union, in her keynote address.

New research methods are emerging that empower women in the research process, not just the outcome, and give them greater voice. One such method is the gender-transformative approach (GTA), on which Cynthia McDougall, Afrina Choudhury and Steven Cole from WorldFish ran a special workshop.

"GTA aims to spark women and men to critically self-reflect, leading to shifts in structures such as social norms and dynamics that perpetuate and reproduce inequalities. This is about households themselves deciding what works for them together to drive this change process," Dr. McDougall said.

Another novel research approach that's increasingly being used in fisheries is photovoice, which was the focus of a special workshop by Janine Pierce, Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of South Australia and a board member of Aquaculture without Frontiers (Australia). "Photovoice gives the chance to tell stories to participants (often women) who may not have had a voice previously to tell their story," said Dr. Pierce.

> *The gender-transformative approach aims to spark women and men to critically self-reflect, leading to shifts in structures such as social norms and dynamics that perpetuate and reproduce inequalities.*
>
> *– Dr. Cynthia McDougall, WorldFish*

The method involves giving participants cameras to take photos on loosely worded themes and to write or describe accompanying comments in a diary. To provide some hands-on experience, a handful of delegates including Chelcia Gomese, Gender Senior Research Analyst from WorldFish Solomon Islands, participated in a photovoice project at the conference. "I really enjoyed doing it, and I'm now planning to use photovoice in some upcoming research in the Solomon Islands to understand what matters to women around fisheries," she said.

The concept of intersectionality was the focus of a special workshop by Marilyn Porter, Professor Emerita, Memorial University, Canada, and Holly Hapke, Research Development Director at the University of California, Irvine. "Women are not all the same," said Dr. Porter. "A woman fisher in India will have a different experience from a Canadian woman fisher even though they are all fishers. Intersectionality allows us to unpick the differences in experiences and identities and see how these differences interact to affect the experiences of individuals and groups. In turn, this leads to a more sophisticated analysis and better targeted policy interventions."

Another valuable research approach that needs deepening is the feminist perspective, which was the focus of a special workshop by Nalini Nayak and Cornelie Quist, founding members of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers. "Feminist researchers and activists in alliance with fishworker movements need to develop a cohesive conceptual framework that includes development approaches and policy measures," said Nayak. "This should be focused on achieving socially and environmentally just fisheries that could sustain life and livelihoods, in relation to the impacts of unsustainable global fisheries."

Many presentations highlighted how the introduction of new gender-sensitive technologies are enabling women to more fully participate in and receive benefit from fisheries and aquaculture.
Cecile Brugère, Director, Soulfish Research and Consultancy, presented on tubular nets for seaweed production in Zanzibar, which are showing promise for women's empowerment, livelihoods and the environment. "From two years of testing, we found that the tubular nets enhanced the growth and productivity of higher value seaweed strains, generated income and strengthened the links between women producers." But innovations are never gender neutral, she reminded delegates, and capacity for the nets' use needs to be built and the uptake monitored.

A key theme of the conference was the importance of collective action by women, which was underscored by comments by Belinda Richardson, Fellow, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Collective action is critical to driving policy that works for women. This is a herculean effort, because it's often very difficult to bring those voices to the tables," she said.

The history and success of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) was presented by Editrudith Lukanga, Secretary General. "Since forming in Tanzania in April 2017, AWFISHNET—consisting of women from 28 African Union countries—has been able to attract funding, which is a huge success for us because resources are normally scarce, and it enables us to come together. Through the network we're raising our voices, in a unified way, for the inclusion of women in all decision-making and policy processes, from planning to implementation to monitoring," Lukanga said.

On women's collective action, delegates benefited from the insights of Margaret Harding, a fish processor and vendor, and one of the 25 members of the Central Fish Processors Association in Barbados—the only postharvest fisherfolk organization in the country. "Having the organization enables us to work freely.

It enables us to do the things that we want like the upkeep of the market, abiding with regulations and complying with governance," she said of the organization that was formed in 2005.

At the conference, Dr. Meryl Williams launched the gender equality statement From catch to consumer: Why gender matters in aquaculture in fisheries as part of the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries website. The article highlights the key actions that are needed to make real progress toward gender equality—all of which were raised and discussed at the conference.

And gender equality cannot be achieved by gender researchers and practitioners alone—a critical message summed up by co-organizer Kyoko Kusakabe, Professor, Asian Institute of Technology.

"It is only by working in a collaborative way—through transdisciplinary approaches and integrative policies with grassroots organizations and policy makers—that we can make real progress toward sustainable and socially just small-scale fisheries and aquaculture," Dr. Kusakabe said.

* *Republished from an INFOFISH Report. An extended version of this article can be found online.*



Photo credit: Leocadio Sebastian/WorldFish

Members and membership



First Executive Committee

The GAF Section is governed by an elected Executive Committee of nine members, plus the past chair and newsletter editor. The officers of the Executive Committee consist of the chair, past chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, election committee coordinator, constitution committee coordinator and membership committee coordinator, newsletter editor and two other elected members.

Following the election in September 2017, the first Executive Committee took over from the GAF Section inaugural officers.

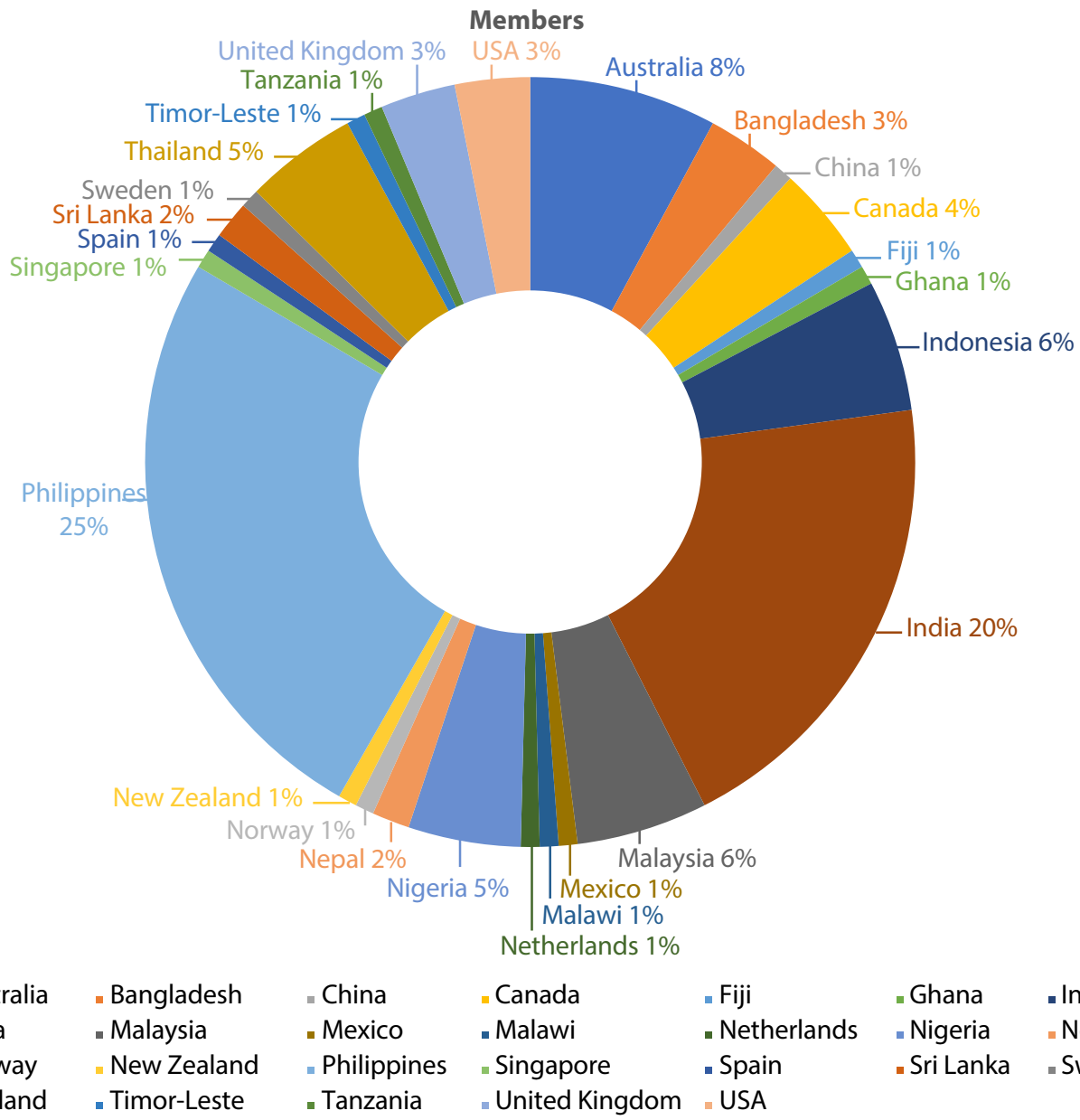
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Secretary	Kafayat Adetoun Fakoya	Senior Lecturer, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Science, Lagos State University, Nigeria	kafayat.fakoya@lasu.edu.ng
Inaugural treasurer	Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit	Gender, Human Welfare & Capacity Building Specialist, USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership in Southeast Asia and Coral Triangle Regions	arlene.satapornvanit@oceans-partnership.org
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Secretariat	Sijitha Mary CX	GAF Section	sijithamary90@gmail.com

Updates on members and membership

All GAF Section members are members of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) who have also elected to become section members, at no extra cost. At the end of 2018, the GAF Section had 127 members, of which 13 were permanent active members (see Membership options box on page 15), and 26 were yet to pay their latest AFS dues.

Congratulations to all those who are now classified as permanent active members. We urge more of you to take this route to make remaining an active AFS and GAF Section member much easier.

If your fees are overdue, please pay them now, or better still, pay what is necessary to become a permanent active member!



News on members

Some GAF Section members have supported the International Institution for Fisheries Economics & Trade (IIFET), a sister organization, to hold a gender session at their fourth biennial conference in Seattle.

The Sixth Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development Annual General Meeting, Conference and Workshop (NiWARD) was created to give Nigerian scientists and agricultural researchers who have been chosen as African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellows, and all other professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, a much needed platform to transfer the knowledge and skills gained through the Fellowship Program and in their careers to transform the rural agricultural sector in Nigeria, including fisheries and aquaculture. The GAF Section has been informally linked to NiWARD through our members and network, especially Professor Stella Williams, a long term stalwart of several AFS WIF/GAF events and Dr. Kafayat Fakoya, the GAF Section Secretary. Through NiWARD, scientists work to empower and build the capacity of rural farmers, including women and their communities, to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

An important outcome of the GAF7 conference was the birth of a GAF Africa network. The seven delegates from Nigeria (five), Malawi (one) and Tanzania (one) were motivated by the way the Asian countries made progress in addressing gender issues in fisheries and aquaculture and considered working on something similar for Africa. The network intends to cover all African countries, involving both public and private institutions, and will foster partnerships with organizations such as AWFISHNET as well as other gender-oriented organizations involved in fisheries and aquaculture in the continent.

Membership options

Discounts are available to members who make consolidated payments for a minimum of three years. Members also have the option to become a permanent active member (PAM) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), and hence the GAF Section. The AFS 12th Council has approved new terms and conditions for AFS membership, including a new provision to become a PAM by paying a membership fee continuously for 15 years:

- For members from Category 1 countries, in order to become a PAM, the fee for a new member is USD 250 (yearly membership fee USD 15 x 15 years + USD 25 joining fee).
- For members from Category 2 countries, in order to become a PAM, the fee for a new member is USD 410 (yearly membership fee USD 25 x 15 years + USD 35 joining fee).

Current members for renewal:

- Must have been active members with continuous full payment of membership dues for the past 15 years.
- For those with unpaid years: Must pay the total cumulative unpaid membership fees plus any other balance in order to complete the required 15 years of continuous membership. The membership ID with photo will be provided only to a permanent active member.

Members who are from countries outside of Asia will need to pay for the cost to remit their annual membership fee to the Asian Fisheries Society's office in Malaysia. The GAF Section is exploring options to enable members around the world to make payments without incurring any/much additional cost.

Stay in touch

The GAF Section has a number of ways for you to stay up to date with our latest activities, get in touch and interact with us.

- GAF Section website
- GAF Conference website
- GAF Section milestones
- GAF Section on Facebook
- GAF Section Twitter
- GAF Section mailing list

Call for Papers: Special Issue on Gender and Fisheries

The Gender, Technology and Development journal is seeking contributions for a Special Issue on Gender and Fisheries

The special issue focuses on learned experiences and empirical evidence from studies in gender in fisheries and aquaculture around the world with special reference to:

- Closing gender gaps through policy and programmes – specifically focusing on outcomes
- Gender in small scale fisheries and aquaculture
- Gender-disaggregated statistics and methods

Details about how to submit your article and its format can be found on the journal's editorial manager. During the process of submission, make sure you select "Special Issue" when you choose the article type from the drop-down menu.

Deadline for submission of your article is June 1, 2019. Accepted papers are expected to appear online in the year 2020.

Events

Calendar of 2018 events on GAF or with gender, women's and men's sessions

Month	Name	Location	Attended by
July	International Institute of Fisheries Economics & Trade (IIFET) Link	Seattle, USA	Meryl Williams
September	Annual Scientific Conference and Capacity Development Workshop Link	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Surendran Rajaratnam
November	First International Conference of Women of Fisheries Link	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	Nikita Gopal
November	JIRCAS International Symposium 2018 Link	Tokyo, Japan	Meryl Williams

Calendar of forthcoming events on GAF or with gender, women's and men's sessions

Month	Name	Location
2–4 April	**ACIAR Seeds of Change Conference, 'Gender Equality Through Agricultural Research for Development'** Website	Canberra, Australia
8–12 April	**Asian Fisheries Society, 12th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum, 'Transforming Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture for Sustainable Production and Nutrition'** Website	Iloilo, Philippines
22–24 May	**North American Association for Fisheries Economics 2019, 'Gender Analysis Applied to Fisheries Economics, Fishery Management and Fishery Trade'** Website	Halifax, Canada
18–21 June	**Asian-Pacific Aquaculture 2019** **(1) Gender in Aquaculture, and (2) Fish in Women and Child Development** Website Contact: Bibha Kumari	Chennai, India
24–28 June	**Mare 2019** **People & the Sea: Learning from the past, imagining the future.** **Panel: 'Fishy feminists: Drawing on the past to imagine feminist futures of seas and coasts'** Website Contacts: Christine Knott and Madeleine Gustavsson	University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
9–11 September	**World Seafood Congress** Website	Penang, Malaysia
11–13 September	**3rd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation** Website	Akure, Nigeria
29 June–3 July	**International Institute for Fisheries Economics and Trade Conference** Website	Vigo, Spain
11–15 October	**World Fisheries Congress** Website	Adelaide, Australia
To be determined	**8th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries** Website	To be selected

GAF
GENDER IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTION