Dr M.C. Nandeesha
The Man Who Brought Gender Awareness to the Asian Fisheries Society

Meryl J Williams
Honorary Life Member, AFS
Dr M.C. Nandeesha [1957-2012]

- A brief professional biography
- Impact on AFS gender awareness
- His gender approach as revealed
  - In 3 publications
  - From my personal experience and observations
- Lesson’s learned from a visionary’s life
Brief professional biography

- **1985-92**: Ass. Prof, Dept of Aquaculture, Coll. Fisheries, Mangalore, India
- **1992-97**: Fisheries Adviser, Partnership for Development in Kampuchea (Padek), Cambodia
- **1998-2000**: R&D Dissemination Advisor. LIFE (Locally Intensified Farming Enterprise) Project, CARE Bangladesh
- **2000-01**: Project Coordinator, GOLDA (Greater Options for Local Development through Aquaculture) Project, CARE Bangladesh
- **2001-2008**: Professor and Department-in-Charge, College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University, Tripura State, India
- **2008-2010**: Adviser and international consultant – FAO, NACA, IFAD, etc
- **2010-2012**: Dean, Fisheries Coll. & Research Institute, Tamil Nadu, India

**Also**: chair/board member WAS, Aquaculture without Frontiers, AFS, AFSIB, etc
Impact on AFS gender awareness

- 1990. Women in Fisheries in India, AFSIB
- 1994. Women in Cambodian Fisheries
- 1995. 4AFF photo competition (Beijing)
- 1996. Women in Fisheries in Indo-China countries
- 1998. 5AFF WIF Asia (Chiang Mai) + photo comp
- 2001. 6AFF WIF Global (Kaohsiung) + photo comp
- 2004. 7AFF GAF (Penang)
- 2007. 8AFF GAF2 (Kochi)
- 2011. 9AFAF GAF3 (Shanghai)
Impact on AFS Gender Awareness

- Introduced women in fisheries thru a photo comp
- Brought in outside partners (Padek, CARE, etc)
- Regular symposia in Asian Fish. and Aqua. Forums
  - First and so far only fisheries professional society to do this
- Publications of papers from symposia

1998, 5AFF Chiang Mai: Dr M.C. Nandeesha gives an opening address
1998, 5AFF Chiang Mai: presenter, Prof Dato Shariff (AFS Pres), Dr M.C. Nandeesha at WIF photo exhibition
3 sample publications revealing aspects of Nandeeshha’s approach
1. Institutional approaches in CARE Bangladesh (1998 WIF Asia)


- CARE-Bangladesh focused on women in aquaculture
  - But found that extension did not include women, and almost all NGO extensionists were men, with low appreciation of women’s learning styles, needs.
  - Developed a 3 tier approach
    - specific goals for the participation of women in projects' logical frameworks
    - Using extension approaches and interventions with increased benefits for women; and
    - Promoting changes and staff development for a more gender-sensitive organization.

- Field experience revealed further that
  - Local social attitudes and types of aquaculture resulted in different gender roles
  - Tho’ achieved 28% women staff, retention was low and men resisted

- Conclusion: making change is much more than deciding to do it
2. Gender in fisheries education

Nandeesha, M.C. 2006. Gender status in Indian Fisheries Education, Research and Development organisations

- In: 2004 Global Symposium on Gender and Fisheries


Both papers explored gender statistics in education (students, faculty), fisheries research and technical organizations.

Indian study details, by state, occupation (science, administration, support), that women’s participation is low, e.g.

- 18% of university fisheries graduates, 14% of fisheries researchers are women
- Women’s participation rates vary by state, linked to female literacy and social status

Global aquaculture study directly gathered available tertiary participation stats

- Nandeesha used his networks to gather the available data
Selected time-series of female graduates in aquaculture courses.
3. Keeping our progress in view

Williams & Nandeesha 2012. Now is the time to move the agenda forward. *AFS News*.

- News update on recent GAF events
- Timeline of events to date, with links to outputs (proceedings, news reports)
- Table of women councilors since the start of AFS
  - The number is not increasing; we need more senior nominees!

### Table 2. Women Council Members of the AFS from 1st to 10th Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Council</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dionisia Rola</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elvira Tan</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meng Qingwen</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jahara Yahaya</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Fifth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Arthington</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Fifth and Sixth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamonporn Tonghuthai</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Fifth, Sixth and Seventh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roshada Hashim</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Seventh, Eighth, Ninth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatima Md. Yusoff</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Seventh, Eighth, Ninth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida Siason</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarissa Marte</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Seventh, Eighth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zuridah Merican</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Tenth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Period</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Council (1984-1986)</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2 of 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Council (1986-1989)</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2 of 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Council (1989-1992)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0 of 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Council (1992-1995)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0 of 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Council (1995-1998)</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3 of 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Council (1998-2001)</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>3 of 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Council (2001-2004)</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>5 of 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Council (2004-2007)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4 of 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Council (2007-2011)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3 of 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Council (2011-2013)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2 of 16</td>
</tr>
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</table>
A personal view

- 1996, “first” request
- Total commitment to social justice
  - Dorm for women students
    Tripura U
  - Donated 2007 GAF2 award
- Continued prompting to push the envelope
  - Exhausting to work with
  - Very productive
- Strong self-respect but did not put self first

Dr M.C. Nandeesha & the presenter, 1996, Phnom Penh, Women in Fisheries in Indo-China Countries
What can Nandeesha’s life teach us?

Dr Katia Frangoudes, Dr Marilyn Porter and Dr M.C. Nandeesha contemplate the challenges during the 2011 FAO Special Workshop on GAF, Shanghai, 9AFAF 2011.
Lessons learned from a visionary

- Social justice matters above all else
- Get your toe in the door first
  - Then ramp up
- Go to the top and always work with others
- Remember and reinforce history, progress
- Go out and ask for the information
- Be conscious of realities on the ground
  - Data
  - Institutions
  - Culture
  - Production system

Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh & Dr M.C. Nandeesh, 1996, Phnom Penh, Women in Fisheries in Indo-China Countries
His legacy

Dr Nandeesha was a visionary committed to social justice, and with an intuitive understanding of how to motivate others to act and bring about institutional change.

He changed the course of my professional life and that of many others.

“So though Nandeesh is not with us physically, his thoughts and deeds are there to guide us through these difficult times.”

Rajeswari Dayal B. (his loving wife)
Acknowledgement

- From family archives, Mrs Rajeswari Dayal B. kindly provided the photos of Nandeeshan on slides 1, 3, and 7