

Report Of

WFFP

4th General Assembly

2007 - NOV - 29, TO 2007 - Dec - 03.

Negombo,

Sri Lanka.

The WFFP Coordination Committee 2007- 2010

1. Co-coordinator MS. Sherry Pictu
2. Co-coordinator MR. Naseegh Jaffar
3. Secretary General MR. Herman Kumara
4. Treasurer MS. Natalia Laino Logo
5. Members Asia MS. Tahira Ali
6. " " MR. Harekrishna Debnath
7. Members Africa MR. Ahamed Ould Abeid
8. " " MS. Joyce Oruka
9. Members Europe MS. Marie Ademar
10. " " MR. Robert Alvarez
11. Members America MR. Jorge Vagela (South Pacific)
12. " " MS. Pauline Tangiora
13. Special Invitee MR. Dao Gaye

Official Translators	MR, Alexis (French)
" "	MR. Xabier (Spanish)
Reporters	MR. Santiago
" "	MR. Tanu
	MR. Sidharth

Pledges:

1. We work as A team
2. We have regular communication among us through Teleconference every three months.
3. We have communication in all three languages English, Spanish and French.
4. We implement OUR GLOBAL FISHERIES Policy.
5. We implement all our decisions.
6. Today 3rd December we launch a movement of planting trees and mangroves wherever we are.
7. We celebrate every November 21st as WORLD FISHERIES DAY that we the traditional, artisanal and small fisher people of the World, who depend on water bodies, coast and fish resources for livelihood, own and manage these Natural Capital.

Decisions of the WFFP CC

Negombo, Sri Lanka

28th November and 03rd December 2007

Decision 1

It is decided to accept the following organisations:

Indonesian Fisher Folk Union, Indonesia

Federation of Southern Fisher Folk, Thailand

Siera Leon Artisinal Fisher Folk Union, Siera Leon

Jatiya Sramik Jote, Bangladesh

Decision2

It is decided that Thomas Kocherry be appointed to facilitate a consensus for the election of new office-bearers of the WFFP

Decision 3

It is decided to co-opt Thomas Kocherry and Dao Gaye as Special Invitees to the co-ordination committee.

Decisions of the WFFP

General Assembly 4

Negombo, Sri Lanka

28th November - 03rd December 2007

Decision 1

It was decided to accept and endorse the report of the general sec which includes the decisions of the 4 CC meetings held between the last and the present general assembly.

Decision 2

It was decided to accept and ratify the decision of the WFFP CC of 30.11.2007.

Decision 3

This General Assembly decides that ail member organizations in each country and continent should organize workshops at national level on the ILO convention on fishing and labour standards by July 2008, and follow it up by lobbying with their respective national governments to include the interests of the artisanal, small scale and shore-based fisher people and workers in processing units. The CC should seek the support and assistance of ICSF to provide information and training for this process.

Decision 4

It is decided that WFFP establishes an internal committee to prepare a position paper on rights-based fishing, based on contributions from member organisations, which they should supply to the General Secretary by March 2008. This position paper should form the basis of a WFFP submission to the debates during the FAO conference on small-scale fishery to be held in Bangkok in October 2008.

Decision 5

It is decided to develop a resource dossier with the assistance of ITSAS GEROA/AGAMAR to assist member organisations to discuss "access rights" and "a rights-based fishery" within the scope of Human Rights, in preparation for the Bangkok conference.

Decision 6

It is decided that WFFP should work with other international organisations to ensure that WFFP obtains accreditation for the Bangkok conference and try to ensure that all member organizations of WFFP are represented at this conference.

Decision 7

It is decided that the WFFP should endeavour to have an active presence inside the Bangkok conference as well as an authorized parallel public presence to coincide with this conference.

Decision 8

It is decided that WFFP, and its member organisations should develop a position, as a basis for a management strategy and action plan on Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management, latest by the end of 2009, that protects the traditional and customary rights of the fishing communities and secures the rights of small-scale fishers to operate in these areas for livelihoods purposes.

Decision 9

It is decided that WFFP and member organizations should develop a position on bio-diversity, marine protected areas and coastal zone management and participate in international fora through building alliances with indigenous peoples and other progressive groups to promote the interests of fishing communities in this context.

Decision 10

It is decided that member organizations of WFFP should initiate action plans to lobby their national governments to establish statutory, and operationally autonomous, national disaster prevention and management authority.

Decision 11

It is decided that member organizations should emphasize lessons learnt from previous governmentally misdirected disaster relief as a basis for advocating for the establishment and effective autonomous disaster management institutions.

Decision 12

It is decided that the WFFP set up standing committees as continental or regional levels to campaign for the immediate release of jailed fish workers, preventing further arrest and imprisonment of fishers through sensitization programmes across national borders, and to address other trans-border issues, like existing agreements, in collaboration with human rights groups

Decision 13

It is decided that the WFFP initiate an international letter campaign, aimed at heads of governments demanding the urgent release of jailed fish workers and their confiscated fishing vessel and equipment.

Decision 14

It is decided that member organizations of the WFFP arrange exchange programmes between countries for women active in fisheries, to give recognition to the central role that women play in the sustainability of the sector.

Decision 15

It is decided to directly lobby the EU, through the assistance of AGAMAR and ITSOS GEROA, for possible programme funding and to seek their support for positions and campaigns taken by the WFFP in support of small-scale fishers globally.

Decision 16

It is decided that the WFFP and member organizations promote the preservation and planting of mangroves and other trees as a means of environmental protection and disaster prevention. Apart from special drives to plant mangroves and trees, all future meetings shall be marked by planting of trees which will serve both as a celebration and as an awareness building measure.

Decision 17

It is decided unanimously to accept the amendments to the constitution as proposed by the co-ordination committee.

Decision 18

It is decided to hold the next Coordination Committee meeting at Bangkok in October 2008 along with the FAO conference.

Decision 19

It is decided that the Coordination Committee meeting of 2009 will be held in Guadalupe

Decision 20

It is decided that the next General Assembly (2010) shall be held in Pakistan.

Decision 21

It is decided to accept and ratify the decision of the coordination committee to co-opt Thomas Kocherry and Dao Gaye as Special Invitees to the co-ordination committee in accordance with article 10 of the constitution of the WFFP.



WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP)
Forum Mondial des Populations de Pêcheurs
Foro Mundial de Pueblos Pescadores

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Resolution

The General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) in session at Negombo, Sri Lanka, 28th November - 3rd December 2007, made the following Resolution.

Cette quatrieme Assemblee Generate du Forum Mondiale des Populations de Pecheurs, ayant pris connaissance du rapport d'enquete realise par John Kearney, Ruth Manorama et Sarath Fernando, en date du June 2006 accepte unanimement et formellement les recommandations contenues dans ce dernier. Nous reconnaissons que le Comite de Coordination a deja mis en oeuvre un certain nombre de recommandations et completera ce travail au cours de l'Assemblee Generate.

This 4th General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher People, having considered the Investigation Report as submitted by John Kearney, Ruth Manorama and Sarath Fernando (in June 2006) unanimously and formally endorses this report and accepts the recommendations contained therein. We acknowledge that the CC have already started to implement part of the recommendations and will complete this work during this General Assembly.

De plus nous soulignons que beaucoup d'entre nous connaissent le Pere Thomas Kocherry et Herman Kumara qui ont ete impliquees dans les accusations qui ont abouti a la mise en place de la Commission d'enquete depuis la creation du FMPP a Loctudy (France). Nous reconnaissons et leur sommes redevables pour tout le travail remarquable realise depuis la creation du FMPP. Thomas en particulier a toujours mobilise les fonds necessaires afin de couvrir les couts des reunions et des autres travaux et causes defendues par le FMPP - nous lui sommes profondement reconnaissants pour tous ces efforts. De tout notre coeur nous encourageons tous deux a poursuivre cet excellent travail.

Furthermore we note that many of us have known Fr Thomas Kocherry and Herman Kumara, since the formation of the WFFP in Locturdy, France. We acknowledge and commend them for the good work done by both of them since the birth of WFFP. Thomas, in particular have always made sure that financial resources are raised towards covering the costs of all meetings and other work of, and causes supported by WFFP - and for this we express our deepest appreciation to him for all his efforts. We wholeheartedly encourage both of them to continue with this good work.

L'Assemblee Generate demande formellement a toutes les personnes qui ont initie et/ou profere ces accusations de detournement, de cesser immediatement. Nous encourageons ces derniers a supporter les decisions et les travaux du FMPP de ses leaders et de tous ses membres, de lutter pour l'amelioration des conditions socio-economiques des communautes de pecheurs a

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travers le monde et de défendre leur lutte pour les droits de l'homme et pour la restauration de leur dignité humaine.

This General Assembly formally calls on all parties who initiated, and or supported the allegations of misappropriation, to cease doing so with immediate effect. We encourage them to support the decisions and work of WFFP, its leaders and all its members, to fight for the improvement of the socio economic conditions of fisher poor people across the world and to defend their struggle for human rights and for the restoration of their human dignity.

Nous considérons à présent cette affaire close.

We consider this matter closed.

Negombo

03.12.2007

Sherry Pictou

Herman Kumara
(General Secretary)

Coordinators

Aro GAZE

Naseegh Jaffer

Natalia Laino Lojo
(Treasurer)

(Signatures of members attached)

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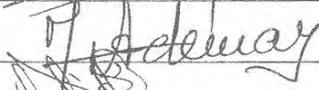
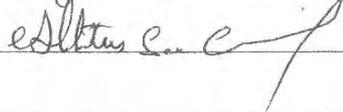
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Muhammad Reza	INDONESIA	Reza
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Thidarat Boonpaman	Thailand	Thidarat
Nurmayah Marna	Thailand	Nurmayah
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Sini Abheethy	Sri Lanka	Sini
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Tahira Ali	Pakistan	Tahira
Xavier Pulo	India	Xavier Pulo
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VALIDE Anne-Do	MARTINIQUE	
Elhino Soane René	Martinique	



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Resolution

The General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), in session at Negombo, Sri Lanka, is seriously perturbed at the news of police firing on fishermen in Badin Lake area in the Sind in Pakistan' this morning (03.12.2007) where, reportedly, more than 10 fisher people were seriously injured and a large number of fisher people arrested.

The WFFP expresses deep concern about and condemns the recurring incidents of atrocities and blatant violation of the human rights of the fisher folk in Pakistan.

We demand proper and adequate medical care and compensation for the victims of the police action. We urge the Pakistan authorities to immediately release the arrested fishermen.

We further demand the abolition of the contract system in fisheries and restore traditional and customary rights of the fishing communities to pursue their livelihoods.

We demand an immediate inquiry into the police atrocities by an independent international agency.

WE call upon the government of Pakistan to take immediate and stern action against the police officers responsible for this incident.

We express out solidarity and support to the movement spearheaded by the Pakistan Fisher folk Forum for protection of democratic and human rights of the fisher peoples of Pakistan.

Negombo

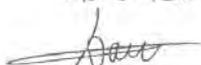
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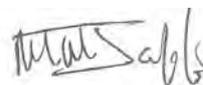

Sherry Pietou


Herman Kumara
(General Secretary)

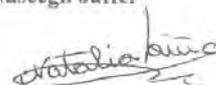
Coordinators

DAO GASE





Naseegh Jaffer



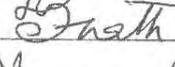
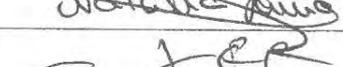
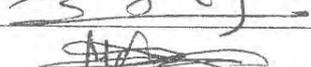
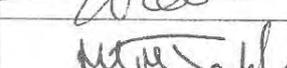
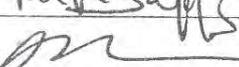
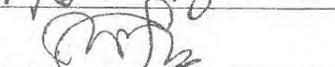
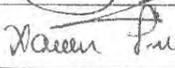
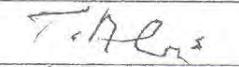
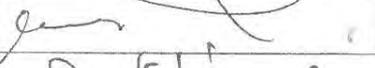
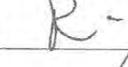
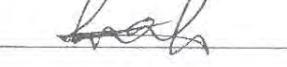
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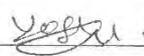
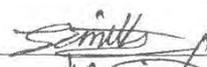
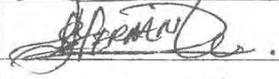
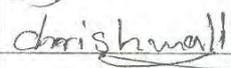
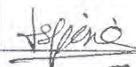
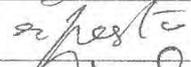
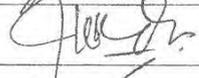
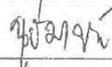
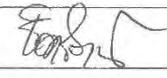
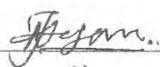
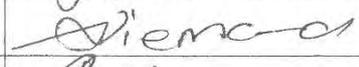
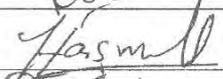
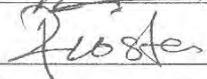
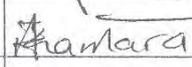
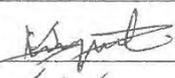
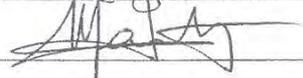
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GAÏE DAO	Senegal	
Naseeha Joffe	South Africa	
SHERRY PICTOU	CANADA	
ARTHUR BULL	CANADA	
ARABIAN BULL	ARABIA	
Hemman Kumara	Sri Lanka	
XAVIER PINTO	INDIA	
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K.H. Louisa Hasamth	Sri Lanka	
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Adanka. F. Kankara	Sierra Leone	
M.A.M. MUSZANIL	SRI LANKA	
	UK	
Carande NANTIMEZ	FRANCE	

Narrative Report of the General Secretary

1. INTRODUCTION

We are in the context of globalization. We cannot accept the type of development of a few at the expense of the basic needs of the vast majority of humanity. Traditional, artisanal, small fisher people in the world, particularly of Asia, Africa and South America, cannot accept this kind of neo-colonialism of the MNCs. It is a struggle between the powers of life and powers of death in the world. Our coastal areas and seas are being taken away by the MNCs in the name of development in connivance with the ruling class in each country.. It is a challenge for us as a global network of the victims of globalization to find ways and means to face the onslaught of this new imperialism. We are here to plan and strengthen the solidarity of this network.

2. ILO CONVENTION

The work in Fishing Convention, 2007, adopted by government, worker and employer delegates at the International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), prescribes new standards for the fishing sector. Its provisions are designed to ensure that workers:

- have improved occupational safety and health and medical care at sea, and that sick or injured fishers receive care ashore;
- receive sufficient rest for their health and safety;
- have the protection of a work agreement; and,
- have the same social security protection as other workers.

The provisions of the new Convention are also aimed at ensuring that fishing vessels are constructed and maintained so that workers in this sector have living conditions on board that reflect the long periods they often spend at sea. It is up to us how we can make use of this for the benefit of the fish workers in each of our countries. We have to be alert and see that complimentary legislations take place in each country. I take this opportunity to thank ICSF and Labour File for helping us in this process

3. MEMBERS STATUS

There have been a few changes in memberships. According to the decision of the Basque CC, eight organizations were dropped because of failure to respond to any correspondence. They are:

1. Bangladesh Jele Federation, Bangladesh
2. Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association, Malaysia
3. Federation of Southern Fisherfolk, Thailand
4. Lala North Sumatra Fisheries Advocacy Network, Indonesia
5. Food and allied workers union, South Africa,
6. Katosi women fishing development association, Uganda
7. Syndicate de defence des marine pecheurs, Gaudelupe
8. Association de Pecheurs du sud basse Terre, Gaudelupe.

One organization was suspended under the Basque CC decision 5.

However, four organizations have applied for membership and it will be taken up during this General Assembly.

4. NOTABLE EVENTS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

Particular attention needs to be paid to the struggle of the Pakistani fish workers. They are fighting against the rangers & contract system that the government aims to introduce there. It was in relation to this that Mohammad Ali Shah was jailed recently.

In the Philippines, the struggle of the fish workers have resulted in the loss of lives of 17 Pamalakaya leaders who were tortured and killed in the past four years.

Apart from the tsunami, mention needs to be made of other natural calamities that have affected fishing communities across the world. There have been devastating events of Cyclones in Honduras & Philippines, earth quake in Pakistan & Martinique, floods in Bangladesh.

On another note, World Fisheries Day celebrated was celebrated with great success in almost all member countries. Special mention was made of this day in the country reports of Martinique, Kenya, Uganda and especially Pakistan where they managed to hold a large rally in spite of the emergency in force at the time.

5. NYELINI DECLARATION-MALI

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy, culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers and users. Food sovereignty prioritises local and national economies and markets and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, artisanal fishing, pastoralist-led grazing, and food production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability.

ANNEXURE 2: The NYELINI MALI Declaration

6. COMMUNICATION

The communication problem caused by different languages is being addressed. The blog <http://worldfederationfisheriesconfere.blogspot.com/> that has been started should go a long way towards this as all members can publish their points of view. They can monitor the feedback to these through comments that anyone who views the Blog can leave on the site and also give their inputs on other articles that are published.

The issue of timely translation has been sorted by having the reports emailed to South Africa where the translations are done and sent back through email.

In response to input from members, we will now send out the general secretary's report ahead of

7. WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

This is a body has been challenging the World Economic Forum, WTO, MNCs, WB and the IMF. We have been active in this body right from the beginning. From Port Alegre to Mumbai to Pakistan and Caracas, the WFFP has been present. We have to see how the WSF can be sustained as a force to fight the powers of death in the world.

8. TSUNAMI

The tsunami of 26th December 2004 after GAS has given enormous opportunity for the WFFP to express itself with the victims. It has shown the character and quality of the organization which was at the forefront of the relief and rehabilitation work. This work is still going on. I take this opportunity to express thanks to all who have shown support and collaboration at all levels. Disaster prevention and management autonomous authority is a must in every country. We are the victims of all these disasters all over the world. Because of my involvement among the victims I was unable to maintain day to day contacts with all members of the WFFP. Thanks to Sherry for the facilitation and regular online translations of the tsunami activities.

In relation to the investigations into allegations of misappropriation of funds by the WFFP leaders, any doubts will be clarified by the annexure to this report which give the investigation report in its entirety.

ANNEXURE 3: Investigation into Allegations of financial misappropriation by WFFP representatives

9. FISHERIES POLICY

The ongoing process of developing a global WFFP fisheries policy is taking shape with the collaboration of all. We must again look to include all what we are and what we want to happen in the world. I take this opportunity to thank ICSF and SIFFS for helping us this process.

ANNEXURE 2: The Fisheries policy in all the three languages

10. WOMEN IN FISHERIES

Regarding women in fisheries, it has been WFFP endeavor to maintain gender parity at all levels We hope to continue this with these elections as well.

11. KENYA CC No. 11 DECISION

This decision has created a lot of problems within and outside and has exposed weaknesses at all levels. The accusation of misappropriation of tsunami funds by the WFFP leaders created a lot of internal mistrust of leaders. This led to the inquiring of these issues. The service rendered by John Kearney, Sarath Fernando and Ruth Manorama is enormous. Thanks to the coordination and facilitation done by Naseegh and Xabier. The report (ANNEXURE -3 in three languages) and

audited statement (ANNEXURE-4) are attached. Their conclusion was that there was no question of misappropriation of funds; rather the leaders should be congratulated on their selfless service rendered to the victims of tsunami. The problem created by the No. 11 decision was finally settled by the Basque CC, when the office bearers wrote a letter that there would no longer be a WFFP office and all the WFFP assets and documents would be handed over to the person appointed by the WFFP. The copy of this letter is annexed (ANNEXURE-5 in three languages). However, these internal problems became opportunities for taking up collective responsibilities. This has created regular teleconference for team efforts. Thanks to the facilitation and meeting the expenses by Naseegh Jaffar. However, we are not able to solve the problem of translations. This is mainly due to lack of funds. These internal problems also forced us for bringing certain amendments in the WFFP Constitution. (ANNEXURE-6. in three languages).

ANNEXURE 3: The investigation report in three languages

ANNEXURE 4: Audited statement

ANNEXURE 5: Letter for Sister Cicily

ANNEXURE 6: WFFP Constitution amendments

12. INTERACTION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

We have been in touch with FAO Fisheries Committees. We have been very much alive with the working out of the voluntary guidelines for food sovereignty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We have been very active with the ILO Convention on social standards of fish workers. Mali Food Sovereignty conference was historic at all levels. Participation in all of the World Social Forums has been consistent. We played an important role in Pakistan World Social Forum. Attending the protest against WTO ministerial meet in Hong Kong along with CC meet was unforgettable. We also participated in the annual meets of the IPC and the ICSF. The WFFP has also been a part of the COFI meetings in Rome. At all these venues, WFFP has been lobbying for the rights of small-scale fish workers.

13. GA3, HONG KONG CC AND BASQUE CC

GA3 was a milestone in the growth of the WFFP. In spite of so many hurdles we were able to overcome them victoriously. We have learned the art of facing many difficulties. We were also able to give shape to the Fisheries Policy which will be our guiding light through the future. The GA3 and Kenya decisions are annexed (ANNEXURE-7 in three languages). Hong Kong CC took place in spite of so many difficulties. WFFP was able to face the difficulties. The decisions of Hong Kong is annexed (ANNEXURE-8 in three languages). Basque was a real breakthrough by the presence of two co-coordinators and all the members. The decisions of the same is annexed (ANNEXURE-9 in three languages). In this context I present the statement of accounts from 21-11-2004 to 20-11-2007. (ANNEXURE-10)(in three languages)

ANNEXURE 7: GA3 Kenya decisions

ANNEXURE 8: Hong Kong CC decision

ANNEXURE 9: Basque CC decision

ANNEXURE 10: Statement of accounts (20.11.04 - 20.11.07)

14. ELECTIONS

After so many hurdles, the WFFP has emerged as a collective body taking responsibilities together. We need to stress this team effort. We need persons who will facilitate this collective efforts. Also we need to stress the role of women. Our efforts of bringing 50/50 representation is bearing fruits. In our election we need to stress these two values- team efforts and gender balance.

15. AN APOLOGY

As a general secretary I present this humble report for your discussion and approval. But I could have done many more things. But our involvement with the victims of Tsunami created a limitation in me to have a wider level of interaction with all the WFFP Members. Please excuse me.

16. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We need to plan the next three years in the light of our dreams and challenges we are facing. Now that we have emerged as a team, we should now go ahead with the creation of a global network at all levels to challenge the globalization in the world to protect the humanity and the planet. The November twenty-eighth mass rally of the unorganized workers and fisher peoples here in Negombo is the beginning of this networking. However we have to plan together in some of the areas given here. What are the possible activities of the WFFP for the next triennium are likely to be? There is, for example, the issue of ratifying the ILO Fishing Convention at the national level. The FAO Global Conference on small-scale fisheries is coming up in October 2008 in Bangkok. How would the WFFP like to influence it? What about the debate on fishing subsidies at the WTO? Eco-system approach to fisheries management is slowly gaining ground and the creation of Marine Protected Areas or MPAs should be seen in this context. What is the position of the WFFP to this approach? What about the administration of fisheries slowly slipping out of the hands of fisheries department and ministries into the hands of environment ministries? How do you protect the rights and interests, and address the concerns, of coastal fishing communities? What should be the position of WFFP on aquaculture, on trade issues such as lowering of tariffs and removal of subsidies? What is the response to the fuel crisis in the world which is badly affecting the fishing sector? The issue of fuel is also linked to choice of technology. What about traditional knowledge of fishers in relation to fishing, navigation, weather and so on?

Thanks to all. I have been able to manage this with the support and collaboration of many. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one.

Harman Kumara 28-11-2007

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WFFP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007

28.11.2007 - 02.12.2007

CHINTHANA CENTER, WENNAPUWA, SRI LANKA

Inaugural Session 29.11.2007 9.30 AM

The participants gathered at the entrance gate of the Chinthana Center, Wennapuwa, Sri Lanka. The host organization had arranged for a Sri Lankan traditional Welcome-by children of the Fisher Peoples classical dancers.

The participants were led to the meeting place procession

(Photos to be included here)

Mr. Dinesh Shanth, on behalf of the organizing committee, invited all participants to pray, each in her/his own manner, for the success of the General Assembly 2007. There was a silent prayer of the group for about three minutes.

The leaders of the WFFP were invited to light the oil lamp to mark the inauguration of the General Assembly:

There was a beautiful welcome dance by the girls of the local fishing community.

Mr. Herman Kumara, the Secretary General of the WFFP, the head of the NAFSO and the head of the organizing committee of this General Assembly, welcomed the delegates, observers, invitees, volunteers and well-wishers.

He recalled how the passage from Kisumu (GA 2004 in Kenya) to Negambo (GA 2007 in Sri Lanka) has not been a smooth one, but that it has been a difficult one. On the one hand, our peoples and organizations had to face a number of Natural disasters like the tsunami of 2004, earthquakes and cyclones in the South Asian countries; and on the other hand there were difficulties from within with accusations and attempts to divide and break the WFFP. The organization has been strong enough to respond to the problems of the natural disasters and to weather the problems created by divisive forces from within.

He remembered the roles played by Mr. Dao Gaye, the coordinator of the WFFP, Thomas Kocherry, Naseegh Jaffer, and other members of the Coordination Committee in keeping the organization together. He paid tribute to John Kearney, Ruth Manorama and for investigating into the allegations against the WFFP leaders. He also thanked the leaders of the NFF India for their cooperation in keeping the unity of the WFFP.

Apart from the natural disasters and the problems from within the organization, the WFFP had to face the disastrous policies of the WTO as regards industrial aqua-culture, pollution and privatization of water bodies. The General Secretary called for greater unity and concerted effort on the part of the WFFP in facing up to these challenges.

Then, the General Secretary called out the names of the delegates, observers, special invitees, and organizers and welcomed all of them. (Cfr. The list of participants).

Mr. Dao Gaye, Coordinator of the WFFP, thanked the General Secretary and the preparatory committee for the arrangements made.

He also spoke of the World Fisheries Day Celebrations in Senegal this year. It was an eventful gathering of various fishing communities in Senegal. The celebrations touched the cultural, social, economic and environmental aspects of fishing peoples. Attention was also drawn to over-fishing, over-capacity and destructive means of fishing. The problems of loss of resources, loss of livelihood, unemployment, dislocation of fisher peoples were highlighted.

Mass Rally (Negambo 28 November, 2007)

Some delegates shared their experiences of the mass rally held in Negombo the previous day.

Abeid (Mauritania) appreciated the organization of the rally which involved the masses of peoples. He liked the fact that many union leaders spoke at the rally and hoped that the Government took note of this event.

Seremos Kemuturaki (Uganda) said that the rally proved that the movement of the fisher peoples here is strong. He was inspired to organize likewise in other countries. He also spoke of the World Fisheries Day celebrations in Lake Victoria, organized by Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. The next World Fisheries Day will be held in Tanzania by the three countries together.

Filadelfo Chavarria (Honduras) Greeted the Assembly on behalf of the peoples of Honduras.

Tao Elga (Benin) appreciated the organization of the rally and the fact that masses of peoples participated. She would have liked to see a tree planted as a remembrance and as a symbol of the occasion. She narrated that, in Benin, various meetings are being organized to mark World Fisheries day from November 21 to the month of December. At each function mangroves are planted.

That concluded the inaugural session and there was yet another dance by the children of the fisher peoples.

Mr. Shanth explained the time table to be followed by the participants.

(Morning tea: 6.30 -7.30 am; 7.30 to 8.30 am Lunch: 1.00 - 2.30 pm; Tea: 4.00 - 4.30 pm; Dinner: 7.30 - 8.30 pm Sessions: 9.00 - 10.30 am; 11.00 am - 1.00 pm ; 2.30-4.00 pm and 4.30-6.00 pm)

Second Session

29.11.2007

WFFP general secretary Heman Kuamara officially started the session at 12.10 pm at Chinthana Center auditorium after the inaugural session.

Herman Kumara invited Dao Gaye to moderate and Debnath Harekrishna (India), Sherry Pictou (Canada) and Naseegh Jaffer (South Africa) to facilitate the proceedings. Herman Kumara then introduced the delegates, members and participants to the floor. Refer to the participant list for details.

Herman Kumara handed over the floor to session chairperson Dao Gaye

Dao Gaye welcomed everyone and asked facilitator Harekrishna Debnath to finalize the proposed agenda. Harekrishna said he was there, along with Sherry Pictou and Naseegh Jaffer to help chairperson Dao to facilitate the proceedings.

Finalizing the agenda was the first point taken up by Harekrishna.

He read out other points from the proposed agenda:

- a) planning for the future of WFFP;
- b) making amendments to the constitution;
- c) finalizing the venue for the fifth annual summit;
- d) upcoming elections to nominate the new office bearers ;

Harekrishna stressed that the WFFP had only fifteen working hours at the fourth annual general assembly to discuss vital matters pertaining to the fishing community. This is mainly because of other relevant activities like the exposure day and the closing ceremony included in the agenda. The exposure day and the closing ceremony would take half-a-day each.

Harekrishna said: "Since we have only so many hours, we need to work fast, hard and very effectively. We request everyone's cooperation and participation to make the meeting a success."

Harekrishna then opened the floor for more proposals to be discussed if any. The panel suggested taking up the general secretary's report first. Sebastian and Sherry would then reflect on the issues arising from the report after which all participants would get an opportunity to debate and discuss the report. Regarding country reports, Harekrishna suggested that the full reports be handed over to the secretary and a synopsis of each report be presented to the participants.

While discussing the country reports, delegates were asked to follow a pattern as listed below:

- a) What members have done so far in their respective country;
- b) What is the most pressing issues with the fisher people in their country;
- c) What do the fish workers from that country expect from the WFFP; It was agreed that each synopsis should be presented in six minutes.

Harekrishna asked if all were in favor of accepting the agenda as proposed. The participants agreed and the proposed agenda was finalized.

Regarding point of order for discussions, Harekrishna reiterated the following:

- a) The delegates are free to bring up any issues as long as its within the agenda;
- b) The observers can take part in discussions and debates but they don't have voting rights in any matter.
- c) The auditors are also welcome to raise issues but only through their country's delegates.

The house agreed to the agenda at 12.52 pm.

Harekrishna thanked the delegates for their cooperation in the first session and suggested the meeting break up for lunch. Heman again stressed the importance of sticking to time schedules. Dao too thanked participants for sticking to the schedule and announced that WFFP would be taking care of their flight tickets.

The session was then adjourned till 2.30 pm.

Third session

29.11.2007, 2.30 PM

Chairperson: Dao Gaye

Dao Gaye asked **Harekrishna Debnath** to facilitate the session.

Marie Ademar wished that Pauline Tangiora be present at this General Assembly as she has much regard and esteem for her. She expressed the hope that she would arrive.

The house observed two minutes of silence as tribute in memory of the wife of who passed away recently.

Herman Kumara, the Secretary General, presented the three year report of the WFFP (full text in the Annexure)

He also presented the accounts for the period from 22.11.2005 -21.11.2007 (full text in the Annexure)

However, he added that this account is not the complete and final picture, as the projected expenses of this General Assembly are included in it as projection.

The General Secretary presented separate statement of accounts for the money received for tsunami (*full text in the Annexure*)

He said that the tsunami relief was done both in India and in Sri Lanka. While the relief in India was

done through an organization called DISHA, in Sri Lanka, different organizations handled the money and accounted for it. The organizations are: National Fisheries Solidarity NAFSO Women's

Development Federation WDF, and United Federation of Labour ULF. Audited statements of these organizations were tabled.

Harekrishna thanked the Secretary General for the Report and called for comments and reflections on the same.

Sid Ahmed Ould Abeid (Mauritania) Said that the organization is surely growing, functioning and contributing.

He would like to have more information on what is being done on a regular basis by the WFFP He also pointed out that it would have often better if the report was received by participants earlier so that they can come with reflections and comments.

At the level of the ILO, the cause of the small scale fisher peoples should be represented.

Muhammed Ali Shaw (Pakistan) appreciated the report and would have liked the inclusion of some of the important activities of the WFFP at various national levels. Particularly, he would have liked the inclusion of the role played by the WFFP in the issues of industrial aquaculture, deep sea fishing and the environment.

Marie Ademar (Martinique) said that copies of the tsunami relief accounts with some details could have been made available to the members.

A person like Thomas Kocherry is wrongly accused of misappropriation. The work of Tom should be appreciated. All the members of this Assembly should sign a letter of appreciation of the work done by Thomas Kocherry.

Dao Gaye (Chairperson/Coordinator) thanked the Secretary General for the clear report and transparent account submitted.

He drew attention to the issue of child labour in the fisheries industry and said that we should address this issue and should bring this to the notice of the ILO.

With this the session broke for tea.

Fourth session

29.11.2007, 5 PM

Chairperson: Dao Gaye

Harekrishna Debnath facilitated the session.

The third session of the meeting started with continued member interventions on the general secretary's report.

Member Mr. Gerard M Corpuz from Philippines: "How does WFFP address issues raised by member organizations of other countries. WFFP has been issuing statements on problems confronting the fish workers; however, these were not mentioned or included in the report. It is important to include this because the questions raised are relevant to organizations in other member countries."

Mr. Andrew Johnson from South Africa: "The general secretary has not included any problem faced by the organization. Does this mean he did not have any problems at all? Last time we raised the problem of lack of computers. This was not mentioned again. I presume that every CC member now has computers."

"Fish workers rights are not clearly stated in the report. It's difficult to explain to fish workers what their rights are unless it's clearly stated.

"CC had on an earlier occasion created a problem-solving process. This has not been included in the report.

"Protection of family values is not mentioned in the report. We value this as a very important aspect of our work.

"Definitions of certain terms like small-scale fishers need to be included." "There's no policy on aqua culture included in the report."

"Regarding international for a, many WFFP members are members of other organizations. Do they need to tell WFFP if they are part of other organizations. What is the rule regarding this?"

"Voluntary guideline to guide to food was also not added in the report." "Which members have left us and which members have rejoined us."

Mr Seremos Kamuturaki from Uganda: "I have two issues to raise. Why is our Treasurer not present especially when an important report such as this is being presented?"

"Secondly, General Secretary said the receipt and the payment account is not finalized. I request him to finalize this before this meeting is adjourned so the accounts are clear.

Mrs Tahira Ali from Pakistan:

Tahira spoke in Urdu and Harekrishna translated.

Some of our comrades are in the midst of a struggle against the contract system for fish workers in Pakistan where the contracts are being awarded to non-fish workers. There's no mention of that in the report. People of Sindh had carried out a rally against the contract system and police had fired upon on these people, including women and children.

Tahira also mentions the two islands the government of Pakistan has taken over. The government has given foreign companies permission to build Diamond City denying the rights of fish workers to work in these islands.

Wahida requested that a draft be sent out before any report is prepared so that we can scrutinize the draft.

Diafara Diarra from Mali: "If someone wants to go back and give a feedback to other members in their country, it will be very difficult if the French version of the General Secretary report is to be followed."

Ms Nyalulu Florence from Uganda:

Since our forum in Kenya is similar to the forum here, it would have been good to know how we fared in Kenya What gains did we make from World Social forum? Did we learn any lessons? Another issue is regarding the misappropriation of funds meant for tsunami victims. It would have been great if there had been a summary report presented to the delegates here on the money that came in and the money that was spent to clarify any doubts in minds of people here.

Since this is the last World Forum this year, a synopsis of advocacy issues, showing the successes and gains and challenges should be given to members here so we learn from it. Also, are there any organizational policies that guide our work. For example, financial policies.

Jesu Ratnam from India: In the report, there's very little mention of women in fisheries.

There is also no mention of the worldwide change to culture fishing.

Abdul Majeed from Pakistan: When WFFP started, the fish workers had great expectations from the organization. We thought workers from different continents would come together and tackle our challenges together. I would like to discuss some issues that face our community. I'd like to mention one burning issue relating to fish workers in South Asia. Many fish workers are languishing in the jails and more than 300 boats, captured by the government, are lying unused and rotting. We expect WFFP to take up these issues and confront the governments to find a solution. I request all members of the WFFP to come together and attempt to resolve the challenges we face to stay relevant.

Daffe Issiaga from Republic of Guinea.

The artisanal fish workers are expecting a lot from the WFFP. What they want is for the forum to influence the politics at the global level to minimize corruption and the big companies to stop exploiting our resources that in return affect our livelihood.

As there were no more questions, Hare Krishna suggested that the meeting be adjourned till 9 am on 30th November, 2007. We are expecting the general secretary to respond in the morning and the experts will give their remarks and observations on the debate.

Hare Krishna wished to respond to one questions regarding the absence of the Treasurer.

Speaking from personal knowledge and not on behalf of the general secretary, Hare Krishna said the Treasurer could not be present as his wife was seriously ill with cancer.

Hare Krishna added that perhaps as a sign of solidarity, the general secretary should consider putting a few words on the huge loss of lives in Bangladesh and Philippines due to natural disasters.

Speaking of another matter, Hare Krishna also suggested that the general secretary mentioned the fact that Mohammed Ali Shah was in jail as a result of his struggle with military authorities for fish workers rights.

In case of any other such examples, Hare Krishna asked that members come forward with names and they would be added as well.

With this, the meeting was adjourned till 9 am tomorrow.

Fifth Session

30.11.2007, 09.30 AM

Chairperson: Dao gaye

Moderator: Harekrishna Debnath

Naseegh Jaffer, one of the facilitators, introduced the discussion on the issues that came up from the report of the Secretary General.

He categorized the comments received from the floor (cf, Fourth Session) into two types:

1. Matters that pertain to the organization, WFFP
2. Political and other substantive matters that need to be addressed

The procedure

These substantive issues will, first, be presented by Sebastian Mathew.

The reports of activities from the different countries will be taken up. These reports are likely to bring up more issues. We shall then address all the different issues that arise.

As regards matters that pertain to the organization, both the Secretary General and the other members of the coordination committee will clarify them to the house.

Sebastian Mathew, at this point, gave a presentation of the issues that surfaced from the report of the Secretary General.

New areas for Advocacy:

Points from the General secretary's report and follow up.

How to make sure that the ILO Work in Fishing Convention benefit artisanal and small-scale fishing communities?

Extending standards to vessels below 24 m in length (What are the standards applicable for all fishing vessels within the scope of the Convention?)

Excluding certain categories from certain provisions of the Convention

Exceptions to certain standards (e.g. minimum age)

Exemptions from a provision based on certain factors (e.g. medical examination)

Extending some standards to shore-based

Food sovereignty

What does food sovereignty mean for small-scale fishing communities?

Is fish being caught to cater to the whims and fancies of markets ?

Are domestically consumed fish now being exported as a result of market pressures?

Disaster prevention

How to lobby at national level to set up disaster prevention and management mechanisms?

Influencing international developments in fisheries

FAO Conference on SSF 2008

WTO subsidy debate, tariff issues

Ecosystem Approach and its implications

Convention on Biological Diversity:

Marine biodiversity:

Marine Protected Areas

International developments in fisheries

Future of coastal fishing communities: threats of coastal development

Aquaculture issues: implications for fishers

Oil price hikes: need to consider greener fuels, wind energy

Traditional knowledge of fishers:

How to ensure its protection?

Trans-border problems

Arrest and detention of fishers

Release of boats that are confiscated

Problems of distant water and deep sea fishing vessels Problems of overexploitation arising from such operations and their impact on artisanal and small-scale fishing operations

FAO Global Conference:

Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development, 13 to 17 October 2008, Bangkok Conference on SSF To be held from 13 to 17 October, 2008

Objective:

To address marginalization of small-scale fishing communities and governance issues

To strengthen capacity and incentives of fisher-folk to invest in defending their fishing rights based on the following principles:

What are these principles?

Address the issues of over exploitation of fisheries resources by shifting towards rights based fishing.

Rights based approach in defining and allocating rights to fish would address the broader human rights of fishers to an adequate livelihood including access to markets.

Capacity building of fishing communities is important during the transition to rights based fishing and to protect the poor from adverse impacts. Responsible fisher's policies are integrated with poverty reduction policies.

Focus of the Conference

Securing access and user rights by small-scale fishers and fishing communities to coastal and fishery resources securing social, economic and human rights; securing post harvest benefits

Issues to be Discussed

Can rights-based fisheries alone address over-exploitation of fisheries resources?

If so, how should rights-based fishery be defined so that it does not lead to privatization of fisheries resources and does not reduce the role of fishing communities in fisheries management?

What role can the fishing community structures play in mitigating or preventing over-exploitation of fishery resources?

What are the implications of the rights based approach to fishing in conjunction with a rights based approach to development?

Should human rights of fishing communities be dealt separately from the human rights of all other communities?

The usage of terms such as fishing rights of fisher folk, defining rights to fish, rights based fishing rights based approach to fish, access and user rights have to be carefully clarified since all these concepts could have different and conflicting meanings in different geographic contexts.

The rights bundle needs a careful unraveling to understand all the implications for small-scale and artisanal fishing communities.

With this Sebastian Mathew brought his presentation to a close.

Dao Gaye thanked Sebastian Mathew for his presentation and the house adjourned for coffee.

Sixth Session

30.11.2007

Chairperson Dao Gaye started the session by making an announcement about the earthquake in Martinique which caused a lot of damage but no lives were lost.

Facilitator Harekrishna Debnath thanked Sebastian Mathew for his presentation and underlined the points tackled by him in his paper such as strategies to tackle fish workers issues nationally and internationally. The most important aspect of Sebastian Mathew's presentation was the ILO convention and the need for it to be ratified by countries which would then follow up with required legislation. Harekrishna stressed the need to use these conventions to lobby support for small scale fishers.

Harekrishna pointed out Sebastian's observation that the problem of fish workers getting arrested in foreign waters was not an issue restricted to South Asia alone.

Regarding marine bio-diversity, Harekrishna pointed out that the fish worker community needs to be wary of areas being marked as protected and not open to fishing as these decisions are made without their input or co-operation.

The FAO convention to be held on 8th October in Bangkok is also important for the fish worker community as the convention has a right-based approach to fishing and an eco-system approach to management.

The floor was then open for discussing Sebastian Mathew's paper.

Mr J. C. Yoyotte from Gaudalupe: "Looking back at the rally I participated a few days ago, there's a serious problem seeing how many women and children participated at the rally. The forum is the victim of its success. Without profound reorganization I don't believe we will leave this place with a quiet mind and with answers to the questions we have come up with. We have many points to discuss. I don't believe we have one answer to the problems we have. We need to reach Bangkok with an answer that will satisfy all groups. What we need to have is working groups and make a synthesis of results emerging from each working group. I'd like to see the ways to re-organise so that I have answers to give back to the fishers on how to proceed.

To J.C. Yoyotte observation, Harekrishna requested the house to focus on Mr Sebastian Mathew's paper for better understanding of the issues discussed in the morning. We need to raise such issues, but let's focus on the paper.

Mesbahuddin Ahmed, National Workers Alliance, Bangladesh (Observer)

How far will this convention help the self-employed fisher man?

Jesu Ratnam, India

Developed countries

Developed countries consider under 18s as children and developing countries differ on this point. We need to have a uniform age in relation to child labour policy.

Aqua culture should be mentioned as industrial aqua culture.

Ms Fatoumata Diarra, Mali

Artisinal fishermen don't have any official documents and are not involved when new legislations are brought out. Will any local organization be involved when the convention is brought out?

Sid Ahmed Ould Abeid, Mauritania

In Western Africa we don't have any issues of fisher workers being jailed. In Mauritania, we have a policy of confiscating equipment, but this is returned through negotiations.

I agree with Yoyotte's suggestion that some work should be done at local and regional levels. We should also discuss changes to the WFFP.

Considering the child labour issue: We have young boys who don't go to school and are involved in fishing activities. It's a big problem. What is the solution.

On social security: Fishermen are not registered with social security and it becomes a problem at the time of an accidents

Sebastian Mathew's response to clarifications sought:

On Self-employed fish workers:

"We can classify three areas in the convention and safely assume that it affects self-employed workers.

One is social security benefits should be extended to all workers;

Occupational safety and health issues should include all types of fish workers. Requirement to provide professionalised fishing gears while undertaking fishing activities.

In relation to this point the convention discusses owners responsibility. In developing countries owners role is taken up by the state. Campaign at national level should differentiate between that which the state is to provide and those which owners are to provide.

Response to the issue of minimum age:

Construction of minimum age is a bit complex. Eighteen is recognized as no night fishing for people below 18 and a bar on hazardous work like diving or lifting heavy weights.

A fish worker should be 16 for light work and 18 is for hard work. The assumption is that in most countries 16 is the age you leave school. If the country has no compulsory schooling, then it can be brought down to 15. At the national level, the state and the workers can discuss what should be the minimum age.

Response to local communities in national legislation:

There is a provision in the convention for the workers to discuss with the government on involving local communities in national legislation. Therefore the communities or associations can demand the government to involve them for legislation.

Arthur Bull, Canada

In the context of ILO and FAO, you discussed the need to define terms like right-based fishers and small-scale fishers. In dealing with international conventions, WFFP should be critical of the language these international conventions use in defining these terms. For example, in North America when you say rights-based fisheries means property rights. We need to have a common understanding on such terms. My question is how will the WFFP strive towards that.

In terms of ILO, shore-based and inter-tidal fisheries has systematically been excluded from labour treaties. How will the WFFP develop a position on inter- tidal fishers or shore-based fishers in such a context.

Seramos Karauturaki, Uganda

Many organizations that have come here do not have access to the ILO convention and will not understand what you are talking about. There is a need for WFFP or ICS to provide such conventions for us to scrutinize.

How can WFFP ensure that the provisions of the conventions are incorporated in the national legislation.

Another problem is that, many organizations lack the capacity to lobby with their national governments. How can WFFP help local organizations lobby with the national governments?

Thomas Franklyn Spencer, Sierra Leone

Problems in the fishing communities are similar, like social security and the child labour issue. WFFP should allow sub-committees to be made at regional levels so that we can tackle these issues.

WFFP should also give leadership to West Africa so that they can negotiate with the national governments.

Gerard M Corpuz, Philippines

If a signatory refuses to legislate what are the immediate remedies.

Can we sue governments before ILO

Can ILO exact answers or responses from these stubborn governments

Daffe Issiaga, Guinea

First issue is the child workers' issues in the fishing industry. Each country has different realities. Talking about the young kids in Guinea, they learn fishing when they are 7 or 8 years old. These kids are more professional than those who have had professional training.

Considering the issue of food security, we have two issues. For fisher workers in Guinea the access to resources is free. There are some limitations, however, on certain kinds of fishing gear. Illegal fishing is something that needs monitoring in Guinea.

Health aspect is important for fish worker, for example in fish processing. He wants to underline that they have regional organizations that exist and are functioning to discuss these issues. Some international organizations are not aware of this.

Nyalulu Florence, Uganda

From the presentation I have a feeling that labour has been treated as a homogeneous issue. My problem is that when the presenter spoke about fish workers, he was talking about fisher men, not fisher women. What has happened to women who are involved in export trade who have been left out of our traditional industries?

How do the labour laws affect the fish workers inside processing factories? There are sick benefits for the women. For example, if a child is sick and the mother cannot come to work, she will lose that day's pay. Is there a window through which WFFP can bring out these issues?

Purnima Meher (observer), India: Thousands of women work in processing units. In India, some of the legislations have loopholes and there are no measures to safeguard their rights. Does ILO have any space for women workers in processing units?

Mamayawa Sandouno (observer), Guinea: Delegates should define what artisanal fishing is. For example, some boats have engines and some don't can we classify both of them as artisanal?

Speaking of age, we should discuss retirement age as well? What will happen to them after they retire?

More than 2000 fish workers are affected by accidents at sea every year in Africa and this has to be taken up by delegates. We should also discuss the issue of AIDS that is spreading fast in fishing communities.

Debt is also spiraling out of control in our communities and this is also getting out of hand.

Madame Maria Adema, Martinique: Thanks for issues raised in the presentation. All the points are relevant to our lives. Considering the points discussed yesterday, I have words of support for the jailed fish workers. A petition should be prepared by the forum and people at national level from different countries should sign this for the release of the prisoners

N. D. Koli (India): National Fisheries Policy has not taken in any of the recommendations of NFF or ICSF. How will WFFP go about ensuring that these inputs are considered before ILO is ratified and the existing policy become law?

Sid Ahmed Ould Abeid, Mauritania: I urge all organizations to be careful about marine protected areas. These areas should be open to small scale fishing.

Also, local organizations have a big role to play in educating the communities about the dangers of crossing international waters.

Chairman Dao had a few words to say. He stressed that the General Assembly should prepare for the meeting at Bangkok at this meeting or at a later date through email.

He also voiced his concern about the issue of government taking over coastal areas for development and said there was a need to bring up this issue at regional and international levels.

Regarding food sovereignty, according to data, last year 120 million tones of fish were caught of which 30 million tones were by-catch (thrown overboard) and another 30 million tones were made into fish meal. Only the rest was consumed. This is relevant.

He also brought up regional forums in Africa where many of these topics were being discussed. He stressed the importance of these discussions being heard at the international level.

With this facilitator Harekrishna adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1:30 pm.

Seventh Session

30.11.2007, 2.45 PM

Chairperson: Dao Gaye

Moderator: Harekrishna Debnath

Answers to questions arising from the report of the Secretary General.

Mr. Sebastian Mathew

Regarding the ILO Convention, our concerns are to safeguard the interests of the shore-based fishers and workers in processing units, as this convention applies only to fishers in vessels. There are 10 other conventions which cater to the welfare of the workers in processing units. However, national governments can legislate in such a way that this convention can benefit shore-based fishers and those working in processing units.

It is important, therefore to lobby with governments to ratify the ILO convention.

As regards child labour, the principle is that children should be allowed to complete school education. If children below that age are involved in fishing, a curriculum can be developed in such a way as to combine fishing with studying and the time spent in fishing can be considered as training time. But different countries have different legislation on the matter.

Safety at sea and health issues are addressed to and are taken care of in the convention.

Regarding the FAO conference on rights based fishing, we have to make sure that the meaning of the words "right" is correctly interpreted. We should attempt to make sure that the traditional rights of the fisher peoples are safeguarded.

As regards artisanal fishers, it is difficult to get a universal definition. Each country should have its own understanding, from which we can draw the common aspects.

As regards the future of fishing communities, it is imperative that the biodiversity is protected and therefore there should be marine protected areas.

Summing up

The ILO convention is for persons working in vessels

But national governments can extend the scope to others like share-based fishers and processing units, by their own legislations.

We should lobby with the governments to do so.

ICSF is preparing a format for the lobbying, it will be circulated.

There are many stake-holders and some are very powerful e.g. the oil sector and we are the least powerful.

With this Sebastian Mathew ended his responses.

Herman Kumara, the Secretary General made his responses to the issues raised

As regards the number of Organizations in the WFFP, he referred to a decision of the Basque CC in which 8 organizations were dropped because of failure to respond to any correspondence. They are:

Bangladesh Jele Federation, Bangladesh
Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association, Malaysia
Federation of Southern Fisherfolk, Thailand
Lala North Sumathra Fisheries Advocasy Network, Indonasia
Food and allied workers union, South Africa,
Katosi women fishing development association, Uganda'
Syndicate de defence des marine pecheurs, Gaudelupe
Association de Pecheurs du sud basse Terre, Gaudelupe.

One organization has been suspended, cfr. Bosque CC decision 5.

However, four organizations have applied for membership and it will be taken up during this General assembly.

- Detailed accounts will be provided soon to the participants.
- Some of the outstanding activities of the member organizations will be added to the report of the Secretary General.
- The problem of communication and language is being addressed.
- Apart from the tsunami of 2004, we need to mention some of the natural calamities that have affected fishing communities over the world and how we have responded to them.
- Regarding investigation into allegations of misappropriation of Tsunami funds by WFFP leaders the annexure III of the Gen Sec Report gives the whole investigation report
- Then WFFP leaders have taken part in a number of advocacy meetings and conferences and participated in lobbying in favour of small scale fishing communities all over the world
- We have maintained gender parity at all levels and we need to keep this up .Team effort thas been emphasized and this should be strengthened .We need a stron tema

Naseegh Jaffer reffered to the investigation report on page 62 of the Gen Sec report and said that the recomendations put forward by the investigators are being complied with.

Harekrishna Debnath thanked everyone and the session came to an end.

Eighth session

30.11.2007

Country reports.

Facilitator Harekrishna Debnath requested delegates to present their country reports along the lines of the major activities undertaken, urgent problem facing country's fish workers and, finally, any suggestions/expectations they had from WFFP.

General Secretary proposed that we spend ten minutes on an educational demonstration on using internet or the web.

Mr. Steve Alston: The website has been set up for those not attending as well as for communication between members in future.

On registering, one is sent an invitation to join after which one can post one's own opinions and read those posted by others. Each posting appears as an article with a subject heading. Five postings go into an archive and all the past postings are easily retrieved. Photos can be posted as well. Once the article has been posted, anyone who visits can respond. This is an interactive tool to reach beyond the WFFP. Steve advised that Rajan or Chenoa could be contacted in relation to this so that anyone interested could be trained in the technology before they left the meeting.

Moving onto the agenda Harekrishna invited India to present the country report.

India

We have upheld the spirit of the WFFP and the National Fish workers day which was celebrated on the 21st November. We organized a variety of different cultural activities, rallies and mobilization. Plantation of mangroves by women is one of the most important aspects of this day. We have supported and expressed solidarity with other countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the struggle for fish workers rights.

Most pressing issue is encroachment and appropriation of coastal zone by industries in the name of progress. Industrial aqua culture is having a serious impact on the coastal areas. This is made worse by the setting up of marine protected zones. This is threatening the life and livelihood of fish workers who are not allowed to fish in these waters which are their traditional fishing areas. There will be some printed matter regarding the Sethu Samudram shipping channel which is available to all delegates.

Pakistan

Biggest issue at the moment is the sale of islands to private companies, sending the fish workers away from traditional fishing areas. If Diamond Bar City is built, the fish workers will lose their traditional fishing grounds and even the movements of the members of the fishing community will be restricted. Environmental destruction will also be massive.

Second issue is the question of the contract system in Pakistan where the rich people are given lease over water bodies, depriving all others including traditional fish workers. Pakistan fisher peoples Forum started an agitation back in 2000 and through the army this system was removed.

When the license system was first introduced, everyone thought the fishermen would get it but the contract went to business people.

Regarding the imprisonment of fishermen in Indian jails and Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails, a week back 17 Pakistani fishermen were arrested and boats confiscated and the fishermen thrown in jail. About 300 people are languishing in jails for no real crime.

We are also struggling against deep sea trawlers. We are asking that the licence for these boats be cancelled. Not only do they damage the fish stocks, they also damage the vegetation in the sea and cause pollution.

We would also like to add that in spite of the Emergency which has been declared in Pakistan, the fishing community in Karachi celebrated the World Fish Workers Day on 21st November, 2007 with great fanfare by taking out a huge rally. Imposition of emergency is the biggest issue in Pakistan today. The WFFP should speak out about the human rights issue in Pakistan.

Since the time was up, Harekrishna Debnath suggested that the session be started early the next day so we could go through all the reports. Dao suggested that the presentation of report be set aside altogether. Harekri shna advised no, we should all be allowed to speak.

Madame Maria Adema from Martinique suggested that we spent all the time discussing important issues concerning the entire community and not just the country reports.

Ms Fatoumata Diarra from Mali supported Maria Adema's suggestion. Sid Ahmed Ould Abeid from Mauritania said that he was learning a lot by listening ,, to the other delegations. It was agreed that the forum would meet half an hour earlier at 8:30 am and go ahead with the presentation of the country reports.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 6:10 pm

Ninth Session

01.12.2007 08.30 a.m.

Chairperson - Dao Gaye.

Moderator - Nasegh Jaffer.

DECISION 1

It was decided to accept and endorse the report of the general sec which includes the decisions of the 4 CC meetings held between the last and the present general assembly.

DECISION 2

It was decided to accept and ratify the decision of the WFFP CC of 30.11.2007.

Thomas Kocherry thanked the CC and the members of the General Assembly for the faith placed on him while entrusting the task of bringing about a consensus in the election of leaders of the WFFP. He acknowledged that it was a difficult task and appealed for the cooperation of all concerned. He enumerated that continental representation, gender balance and selfless are some of the factors to keep in mind while arriving at a consensus. The WFFP has gone through a difficult phase and has come out victorious. He said that he would meet everyone concerned in his attempt to arrive at a consensus.

As regards translations it has always been a problem for us with much difficulty the proceedings of the fourth day (except the fourth session) were translated, thanks Alexis and Angela. They have given this service despite the tiresome duty of live translations during the sessions.

However, the proceedings of yesterday are not available today in French and Spanish. Nasegh Jaffer has kindly made arrangements of the same to be done in South Africa and we hope to receive those translations within a few days.

Continuation of country Reports.

Moderator: Harkhrishna Debnath.

The Philippines: (Bigkis Lakas Philipinas)

(For the full report, please see the Annexure)

Two major issues

1. Japan- PI Economic programme agreement (JPEPA)

Issues and concerns:

One sided provisions for the benefit of power hungry Japanese in exotic Philippine marine sea food; the exploitation of PI 200 EEZ together with the use of factory ships.

Action taken by Fisher folk sectors: Dialogue with the concerned government agencies

Results; Unified position paper against the unconstitutional provisions in the proposed enactment of JPEPA in the senate

Present Situation: The upper house /Senate cleared that some provisions of JPEPA is unconstitutional and need to amend those.

2. Departmentalization of fisheries

Issues and concerns:

The present agency concerned is a mere lame duck and cannot cater to the needs of developing comprehensive PI fisheries as mandated by the PI fisheries code of 1998.

Action taken: Dialogue and consultation with the concerned Govt agencies especially the Congress

Results: Proposed draft of the department of fisheries aquatic resources submitted to the committee for further discussion.

Present situation: Lobbying with the members of the lower house is going on.

Pamalakaya (For full report, please see the Annexure)

Organizational status after WFFP General Assembly.

- 43 Provincial chapters , seven Regional Chapters,

Advocacy.

- Pamalakaya charged the PI government before the UN Human rights Commission for gross violations of human rights, crimes against humanity & crimes against the environment.
- Pamalakaya co-sponsored an all Asian rural peoples tribunal against WTO in Dec 2005 in Hong Kong.
- Pamalakaya wrote to the US senate and the US house of representatives to conduct an enquiry on how the government spent US aid to PI amidst issues of corruption and political killing ss.

Issues

Privatization and conversion of fishing grounds

- Targeting protected sea-escapes and fishing areas which are rich in marine bio-diversities
- WTO / Globalization
- Japan /PI partnership agreement and the other bi-lateral agreements
- Killings of political activists and fisher folk activists perpetrated by PI military and other agents of the state
- Oil price hikes
- Corporate made oil-spills and environmental disasters
- Corruption in the government, de-facto marshal law
- Militarization of coastal communities

THAILAND (For full report, please see the Annexure)

- Campaign against destructive fishing gears & destructive fishing practices
- Campaign against destructive coastal aquaculture
- Campaigning against privatization of the sea
- Degradation of mangroves and lack of acceptance of community rights
- Lack of good governance in public policy development. Large scale projects often marginalize small communities.
- Insecurity of land conflict and settlement

BANGLADESH (For full report, please see the Annexure)

BENIN (For full report, please see the Annexure)

Problems faced

- over exploitation of resources
- Uncontrolled development of some fisheries
- Destructive fishing gears
- Advocacy

Participated at various meetings

- Regional organizations in South Africa
- Meeting in Benin- food sovereignty,
- World Fisheries Day Celebrations Each year

Welfare Schemes

- Small financing agency for artisanal fisher folk a
- Training for adults & literacy programmes

Looking forward to:

- Solidarity with fisher peoples of the world in a common struggle as WFFP

SOUTH AFRICA (For full report, please see the Annexure)

Fighting against RTQ

- Mass actions
- Human rights hearings
- Media
- Fasts
- Political influence
- Court Cases
- Victory Ahead ... but not yet....

WFFP should be more proactive and take action .We begin a new era of WFFP to seek for solutions together.

Tenth session

1.12.07-11 am to 12 pm

Chairperson Dao Gaye

Facilitator Harekrishna Debnath

Uganda country report

Uganda has a national fisheries policy which is good. It predicts that increasing fish production, opening markets and national trade is the way forward. This will be a good incentive for all fish workers who can get employment in the same industry. This will remove individual and household poverty.

Fish exports alone are worth more than \$110 million a year and 6 % of GDP. How does this good future translate into livelihood benefit for the poor fish workers? Ground reality is different. Export promotion is supported by government and trade organizations. There is access to resources through licensing. Export incentives have been given. But for the artisanal fishers, the story is different. There are no subsidies for them to get equipment so they can engage in meaningful harvesting. Our artisanal fishers have gone into "illegal" fishing as some gears that they use are outdated and are now banned. This has led to a lot of human rights abuses. Fisher workers get arrested and beaten up by the police for continuing to indulge in the only practices they know which are now illegal. Social welfare of the fisher families have been affected as employment is reduced. This has led to a rise in poverty and as a result there has been an increase in HIV and AIDS.

The fishing community has limited access to healthcare. They have no schools, roads or hospitals. As a national collective, we use advocacy and capacity building. We analyze the policies of the government. We then give policy education to fishers so they can use this in their favor. We give them paralegal training so they understand their rights and we then support dialogue between fishers and local government. We support radio talk shows so the fish workers can respond to some questions and the public can hear their views. We help them pass by-laws.

We are also fighting for a number of labour rights for the fish workers. We would like for them to form a marketing co-operative so they can try their hand at export.

Lake Victoria is shared by Kenya and Tanzania. We have mobilized help of organizations in the other countries in this regard. It was in this vein that we organized the world fisheries day at a regional level. A declaration was made on this occasion and this was an annexure.

KENYA

Fisher people are organized into regional groups with Kenya. Capacity building is the main work among these groups. We are looking at various specific problems that affect them individually and at local fishing areas. Kenya did not have a national fisheries policy.

We are now acting on a regional level as Kenya is around Lake Victoria. We have been involved in a number of activities:

1. Greater participation through rallies
2. Make efforts to make other countries in region join the regional organization. E.g. Tanzania
3. The national fisheries policy was stopped from being passed in its current form. This is very progressive as it would have had adverse effect on the local fish workers.
4. Many workshops were held to create awareness among the fish workers.

There are a number of negative aspects as well. The main one is the poverty as well as the lack of organizational skills. There is an acute lack of infrastructure. The government has a "strong-fist" approach towards this community and the financial muscles of the exporters are not seen by the fish workers. The community is also affected by the lack of capital.

Fishing communities have the highest number of malnourished people. Flooding and pollution of the Lake Victoria is also a serious issue for the fish workers in the region.

SENEGAL

Dao Gaye is part of one of the first fish workers organizations in the western African region. In Senegal, fishing is important from a cultural, social and economic point of view. One of the problems facing Senegal is the over capacity of the artisanal fishing fleet. This has been underlined during the last meeting at the regional level as it affects the resources of the neighboring countries as well.

They are also involved in the negotiations for fisheries agreement and the definition of the fisheries policy.

Infrastructure is lacking in many areas and they face many problems in marketing seafood. The community is involved in the co-management of fisheries resources. This is done through local fisherman in the local areas.

Improved safety at sea is also important. They have introduced some systems to prevent accidents. They are also collaborating to improve marketing so local companies can export fish to Europe. They are also promoting certain processing methods overseas which are done mainly by women.

They are now working on a fisheries policy which underlines importance of women in this sector. This means the national fisheries policy in its existing form will be reviewed. This is done in collaboration with fisherman all over the country.

MAURITANIA

Fishing sector is very important economically. Fishing makes up fifty-five percent of their exports and accounts for \$200 million. There 36,000 people are involved in the trade.

They are involved in formulating fishing agreements with different countries. The main problem is that the fishing zone is extremely limited due to a huge marine protected area.

There are more than 4000 fishing boats in their organization and they created a system by which they are able to loan money to artisanal fishermen.

They also hold meetings where funds are raised for equipment. Another step forward is the vessel monitoring system which has significantly reduced accidents with large industrial boats. They also finance about 40 per cent of the budget for the local fishing training center.

They are expecting that the area to fish will be increased and they are in negotiations to allow fish workers to fish in the protected area during certain times of the year.

They are also expecting to reinforce their social security system.

They are also hoping to diminish taxes for export and get a main offices constructed.

The government has been approached with a request for two rescue boats.

A west African forum has, been created with nine countries (will be ten with the inclusion of Siera Leon). Their main programme will be for capacity building.

GUINEA

A synopsis of the activities of the organization in the past three years was presented.

Guinea's fisheries community celebrates two days a year. First is the 1st September when the people gather for boat races, dances and other cultural activities. The other day is, of course, the 21st November.

In 2005, they set out a system of participatory surveillance to prevent industrial boats from encroaching on the area for small fish workers.

Pilot project with the FAO was directed towards artisanal fish workers. So they have participated in forming the fisheries policy for the country.

In 2006 a consultant was hired to provide legal advice for micro-finance. This has been created and has given small scale fishers to access finance. This is available to women as well so they can fish for processing.

A media contingent was organized so they could highlight the issues of the fish workers in the media.

In 2007, the stress was on gender aspects. Different units at different levels in the organization were created. They are working in partnership with conservation NGO WWF for the regulation of artisanal fish workers in order for it to be sustainable. They are going through a sensitization programme for fishing communities.

The main set back for the country was the large political strike in the area.

SIERA LEON

In the 11 years of war in Sierra Leon, the only way to travel out of the country was by sea. This meant that a lot of people moved to the coast. The only employment available to these people was fishing. When the war ended, those who had moved to the coast stayed. As a result, the fishing communities are now over-crowded. This area was spared by the fighting forces as this area is not very accessible by road. It was after the war that an organization was formed.

The fish workers are not sensitized and there is a high level of ignorance about the methods of fishing among the community. This has led to a lot of depletion of resources.

Today, there are only five motorized engines left in the country. One person now has monopoly on the import of outboard engines and this has meant that most people cannot afford it as the prices are fixed and very high.

Also, the government has marginalized the fishing community. They have not been invited for the meetings of any organization like the FAO or the ILO. Guinea was thanked as it taught the organization in Sierra Leon to form a union. Senegal has also helped in many ways.

In Sierra Leon the poorest people are the fish workers.

Our main strength is that we are organized. As this was done close to election time, we were able to throw out the existing government.

Special thanks for Beatrice Gorez of CAPE.

The next step would be to concentrate on capacity building as there is a serious lack of knowledge among the fish workers of Sierra Leon.

WFFP CC Meeting

30.11.2007 21.30

Present: Dao Gaye, Herman, Tom, Nasegh, Sherry , Yoyotte, Jabier, Harekhrishna, Natalia, Joyce, & Tahira.

(Translators : Angela, Peter, Alexis. Sec: Santiago)

Agenda:

1. Review of how the GA is proceeding
2. Processing application from four organizations to join the WFFP
3. Preparing for Election of WFFP officials
4. Exposure trip 01.12.2007

The Second item on the agenda was taken up

Decision 1

It was decided to accept the following organizations:

1. Indonesian fisher Folk Union, Indonesia,
2. Federation of Southern Fisher Folk, Thailand,
3. Siera Leon Artisanal Fisher Folk Union, Siera Leon,
4. Jatiya Sramik Jote, Bangladesh,

as members of the WFFP when they pay their membership subscriptions.

The first item of the program was taken up.

It was generally felt that GA III is on the right course; that the stage is set for a real breakthrough by the WFFP. The group is well focused on the challenges ahead of us.

Facilitators should help the group to analyze and plan ahead .

Country reports are important, and the house should be encouraged to listen to each others achievements, problems and struggles & plans.

The third item of the agenda was taken up: Preparing for Election.

It was generally agreed that we should arrive at consensus at the election of officials.

Consensus has been a tradition of the WFFP. It maintains unity and keeps tension away. This is particularly the need of the moment in the context of the struggles of the past three years.

Democracy is at the service of thf common good. Contesting and voting is one form of democracy; though it is a valid form, it often tends to divide the group; while consensus is another form of democracy which unites the group. We should arrive at consensus.

The guiding principles for arriving at a consensus

Continental representation

Gender Parity

Selfless Service

Nasigh Jaffer proposed Thomas Kocherry as the facilitator to bring about a consensus in the election of WFFP leaders. This was seconded buy Sherry Pictou.

Decision 2

It was decided that Thomas Kocherry be appointed to facilitate a consensus for the election of new office bearers of the WFFP.

Thomas Kocherry accepted the appointment, thanked the group for the faith placed in him and promised that he would meet all concerned to bring about a consensus and asked for cooperation.

Eleventh Session

02.12.2007 8.30 AM

Chairperson: Dao Gaye

Moderator: Harekrishna Debnath

Continuation of reports from member associations / countries

MALI (For the full report please see the Annexure)

Some of the activities engaged in were enumerated:

- Working on Code of conduct for responsible fisheries.
- Aquaculture in fresh water
- Environmental issues along the river.
- Training local fisher-people in processing fish products

INDONESIA (For the full report please see the Annexure)

About 500 islands form the nation called Indonesia. This area is very rich in fish resources

Problems faced:

- The conflict of the traditional, artisanal, small-scale fisher-people with the trawlers. The illegal activities of the trawlers go unnoticed by the government
- Industrial aquaculture. Industrial aquaculture made big promises to the poor; promised food security and reduction of poverty. But the reality is that poverty and malnutrition is ever on the increase. It has benefited a few and the products are mainly (almost exclusively) for export.
- Trying to influence the government for a change of policy.
- Create awareness among artisanal fisher peoples
- National unification of all traditional fisher-peoples.

HONDURAS: (For the full report please see the Annexure)

Problems faced

- Industrial fleets
- Government opening mining activities in sea bed

Achievements

Managed to fulfill basic necessities of the fishing community

Hopes

- WE hope that WFFP talks about environmental problems and sensitize all fisheries for maintaining natural resources
- Human Rights of all fisheries communities

CANADA: (For the full report please see the Annexure)

Bear River First Nation - Issues and Actions

- Although treaty rights to fisheries have been recognized, this has not always translated in to livelihoods at the local level. In the case of Bear River First Nation, there is currently no agreement commercial harvesting, because the community has felt that this would undermine future treaty rights
- Although indigenous groups are represented at the UN, information about this often does not reach local First Nations Communities
- ACTION: bear River First nation has found common cause with non-native small-scale fishers in the region

National level Issues and Actions

- Privatization has been the dominant policy on Canadian fisheries policies for the last twenty years, and it continues to have devastating effects on coastal communities and fish stocks. The result has been an intensive degree of corporate ownership in almost every major fishery, enclosure on intertidal shellfish areas and destruction of family owner enterprises.
- **ACTION:** inshore fisheries groups have been pressuring the federal government to include provisions in the proposed new Fisheries Act, to protect inshore fisheries

- **ACTION:** Inshore fisheries groups have been pressuring the government to enforce its own owner-operator and fleet separation policies, and has had some recent success. In this regard
- Industrial extraction of non-renewable natural resources in coastal areas has increased dramatically, with destructive results for coastal fishing areas. This includes quarries, mines, deep-sea mining as well as other industrial developments such as liquid natural gas development and industrial aquaculture.
- **ACTIONS:** Increasingly small-scale fishers are forming coalitions with First Nations, coastal communities and environmental groups to resist this increasing development. There have been recent examples of success of these kinds of coalitions, such as in the Bay of Fundy region.

Request To WFFP

In Canada small-scale harvesters have been seeing great benefits from peer learning and support. For example there is now a national "learning community" for communities engaged in community-based management of natural resources. Many groups would like to also learn from their counterparts in other countries. We would like the WFFP to help to facilitate this peer learning and support amongst its member organizations.

GUADALUPE: (For the full report please see the Annexure)

Guadelupe is situated in the bay of Mexico in the Caribbean, but politically it's a colony of France in Europe. Laws made in France are suitable to the European situation but not suitable to the Caribbean context. This creates problems and often conflicting situations. Economic partnership of the Caribbean islands is developing, which means fish from other islands will reach Guadelupe free of taxes. This means the price of fish will be low, this will affect local fishermen. WFFP is expected to be more involved in the problems of the Caribbean fishing problems.

SPAIN (For the full report please see the Annexure)

Social security and other basic necessities for members have been established. A website of AGAMAR has been launched and they would like it to be linked to the site of WFFP. Training for security at sea is taken up. Fisheries and tourism are being linked. Attended the food security conference at Mali. Lobby with the government for new fisheries law and for marine resources protection & for monitoring aqua culture activities. It is hoped that the solidarity of all fisher peoples under the banner of the WFFP will lead to unity and equity.

FRANCE (For the full report please see the Annexure)

The organization is situated in Basque country, the southern part of France and the North of Spain. We hosted the WFFP CC meeting in Nov 2006. We are working on unifying fishermen in the whole of the Basque. There are conflicts between traditional fleets and vessels of the High Seas. We hope that the World Forum will work with all international organizations to bring about human fundamental rights.

MARTINIQUE (For the full report please see the Annexure)

Martinique has about 1,300 fishing boats, about 50,000 persons are engaged in fishing. 6500 metric tons of fish are harvested. There are areas where access is limited to professional fishermen. Building artificial reefs is going on. There are fears that mass tourism may hinder

fishing activities. WFFP has helped the recognition of the role of women in fishing communities all over the world. WFFP should help the small scale fishing communities to fight against globalization. Martinique should not be considered as part of Europe, but should be considered as a Caribbean unit.

SRI LANKA (For the full report please see the Annexure)

Issues

- Destructive fishing practices - law not enforced
- Invasion of foreign trawlers with and without permits
- High Security Zone and ban on restrictions on fishing around the Island
- Increase in fuel prices

- Tsunami and war affected coastal communities still in temporary shelters.
- Import of fish and fish products

Involvement

In TACT process

- Togetherness of NGO's TU's and ANRHR,
- Awareness and Education,
- Campaign, Lobbying and Advocacy work,
- Training for capacity building of women, youth and children

Expectations

- Take common issues related to Regional Global levels
- Better coordination among nations across the globe which deep involvement in fisheries issues
- Small scale and artisanal fishers should be heard and respected at all National and International fora.
- **We expect the WFFP GA 3 to pass a resolution that the Tsunami affected displaced communities should be resettled in permanent housing with immediate effect**

NEW ZEALAND

(No delegates or observer came for the WFFP GA 3; however their report sent earlier is added in the Annexure.)

That ended the reports from member organizations / countries

Harekhrishna Debnath summed up the reports as follows: Some National and some international issues have been raised.

- Increased privatization of water bodies, « Pollution of the seas,
- Sea-bed mining,
- Destruction of mangroves,
- Destructive development projects,
- Tourism,
- Militarization.
- The impact to of Marine protected areas
- Many organizations mentioned the need of capacity building and import control
- Fall of fish prices,
- All have discovered that the ILO convention is an interesting area of benefit to fishing communities.
- The need to fight against Globalization
- Inherent desire is that the fishing communities should own the resources and should manage their activities by community based resource management or co-management.
- Aquatic reforms are envisaged.

When we combine all this we are actually talking of a Global Fisheries Policy. All these issues will I be taken up for further discussion and for planning.

Twelfth session

2.12.07 12.00 pm

Facilitator Harekrishna Debnath opened the session with the announcement that those countries that had not submitted their country report to do so.

The agenda for the rest of the day was laid out by Harekrishna Debnath.

- Plan of action for the next three years for the WFFP
- Amendments to the constitution
- Decide the venue for the next co-ordination committee meeting
- Elections for office bearers
- Decide venue for the next general assembly

Regarding the first item, it was suggested that Thomas Kocherry present the draft plan of action for the next three years. After this, the assembly was to be divided into the three language groups of English, French and Spanish. Each would discuss the plan and come up with the changes written clearly in their respective languages.

Facilitations team suggested that they come back at 4 pm with the feedback. The plan of action could then be finalized.

Presentation of the plan of action

Naseeg Jaffar said the draft was based on the general secretary's report and the inputs to the same and stressed that it was only a draft plan, not the final plan.

Thomas Kocherry took the floor and apologized for the lack of translation and said he was open to any changes as long as the timeframe was kept in mind.

Thomas started with **principle of WFFP** which is: We should not ask what we can get from WFFP but what we can give to WFFP to make it a vibrant political power in the world. He attributed this principle to the late President John F Kennedy of USA.

ILO, Fisheries policy and WTO

The first plan of action is around ILO, Fisheries policy and its implementation and WTO and its subsidies. We should ensure that this becomes part of us and everyone should be included in this policy.

Each country is responsible for organizing a national meeting with trade unions and national parties in 2008. Not only member organizations but all organizations should be part of this meeting in each country.

The dates and resource persons have to be facilitated by the WFFP office bearers. One or two of the office bearers should be present at each of these meets. Each member organization is responsible for the finances of this meeting. This meeting should be held sometime in 2008. The WFFP office bearers are responsible for their travel. ICSF is responsible for their travel as well as other expenses involved.

ICSF is willing to collaborate in this programme. Translations should be done by Naseeg in South Africa and Massifundse will cover translations expenses.

We should keep in touch with Sebastian Matthew of ICSF. This way the WFFP will have a sustained effort right through. Let us keep at it till we achieve the goal.

This should be evaluated by the next CC and planned by teleconference every three months.

Our object is the ratification of ILO in each member country. Food sovereignty for every nation is our goal.

FAO meet of 2008

Office bearers are to work out the details of the FAO meet in Bangkok. A report is to be made by the fishing community.

Once it is ready, we can circulate this to all governments and the FAO. The office bearers are to raise the money to see that CC members participate in the 2008 meeting.

The general secretary has made another point. Since it's going to be in Bangkok, Thai organizations are to see that people and resources are mobilized during the meeting similar to the way in which it was done in Sri Lanka during the opening day of this General Assembly.

Most of the country reports were talking about the displacement of fisher people from their fishing grounds. The ITQ is going to be implemented in many countries around the world - in Africa Asia and other developing countries. The community ownership needs to be stressed and the Bangkok meeting is the best opportunity for this.

Marine protection Area and Coastal Zone Management

This is taking place in many countries. The affected areas should come together and bring all documents available so agitations can be organized and this can be planned by each group.

Disaster Prevention and Management autonomous Authority

This needs to be established in every country. All these are due to climate change in the world. Two days back it was in Martinique and Guadalupe, before that it was Honduras. This is happening all around the world.

We should demand that each country has a Disaster Prevention and Management Autonomous Authority. The WFFP should spearhead a new movement of planting mangroves and trees. This is the best option. There is no politics or ideology involved in this and it should start from Sri Lanka.

Trans-border issue

A breakthrough was made when SAARC took up this issue. We need to keep at it till victory is ours.

Thomas Kocherry concluded by adding that we should not ask what the WFFP can give us but what we can give the WFFP.

Harekrishna then suggested that the forum split into language groups and reconvene at 4 pm with the proposed changes and the plan of action for each country. A nominated person was to read out the inputs of each groups.

Thirteenth session

2.12.2007

Chairperson Dao Gaye , Facilitator Naseeg Jaffar

Ahead of the thirteenth session, the assembly had divided into three language groups to discuss the draft plan of action. The assembly then gathered to put forward these recommendations.

ILO convention, fisheries policy implementation and WTO subsidy

The English group presented:

The WFFP with the ICSF should facilitate workshops for better understanding of the convention and to clarify certain other issues before the ILO was ratified by their respective countries.

Education, mobilization and campaign should be undertaken by member organizations. It should include lobbying with media, advocacy group and other groups that support the fisheries sector. Member organizations should come up with views that will further strengthen the position of the WFFP on the ILO concerning the fishing sector.

Separate meeting should be undertaken in connection with the fisheries policy and the WTO subsidies in preparation for FAO 2008 meet in Bangkok. The French group presented:

Many member organizations need to be educated on the conventions. They need a translation of the convention latest by 31 Dec 2007 so the documents can be sent to all members of forum. Workshops can then be organized latest by the end of July 2008.

Members expressed their reluctance to integrate artisanal fishing sector with the formal section of convention as this could have negative impacts on them as they fall, under informal sector in most countries.

The Spanish group said they had five proposals which could be integrated into the action plan.

- Offered to present funding proposals of the WFFP before the European Union
- Offer legal expertise to help draft a dossier on access to fisheries, resources and subsistence to be approached from a human and fundamental rights angle
- Avoid developmental projects that are destructive in nature and also ensure that in protected areas, they are financially compensated for the time that they are not allowed to fish
- To push for public recognition of traditional right to avoid displacement of fish workers
- Organize a seminar on good practices to ensure security at sea.

Common or related points

- 1. Education on the conventions themselves.***
- 2. Lobby with the national governments***
- 3. Voice and funding proposals of WFFP can be brought before the European Union***
- 4. Conventions should not affect the social and traditional rights of the fish workers
To push for public recognition of traditional right to avoid displacement offish workers***

They would be happy to organize a seminar on good practices to ensure security at sea. Right to access to fisheries; Help draft a legal dossier on access to fisheries, resources and subsistence to be approached from a human and fundamental rights angle

Draft 1

Education, mobilization and campaign should be undertaken by organizations in the member countries on the conventions themselves on continental, national and local levels. This would involve sending translated copies of the convention to certain countries latest by 31st December, 2007 following which conventions or seminars can be held by member countries to discuss the following topics: ILO convention, security at sea, traditional rights and anti-environmental development.

Once the seminars and meetings have been organized, latest by July 2008, each country can lobby their national government. The WFFP, through its European members, can try to organize funding for seminars on specific aspects of the convention from the European Union.

Members are not quite sure whether to integrate artisanal fishing sector with the formal section of convention as this could have negative impacts on them as they fall under informal sector in most countries.

FAO convention in 2008 in Bangkok

The English group presented.

The WFFP should form a committee on rights-based policies which should come up with a report to be distributed in two months.

All member countries should be present at the FAO meeting of 2008 where the WFFP should apply for accreditation to be present inside the meeting aside from the protests outside the meeting.

French

Regarding the issue of right to access resources, the WFFP would prepare a report which would comprise information provided to it by the member organizations. This would need to be done by March 2008.

Draft 2

WFFP should formulate a policy on rights-based policies based on inputs from member organizations. This should be made and distributed no later than the end of March 2008. All member countries should be present at the FAO meeting of 2008 where WFFP should apply for accreditation to be present inside aside from the protests outside the meeting.

Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management

The English group presented.

These items should be treated by the WFFP and member organisations as a direct response to the Convention on Bio-Diversity which has been formulated without any involvement of the fisher people. The WFFP and the member organizations should work with other environmental groups and form alliances concerning Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management and bring out an action plan.

The French group presented.

The member organizations should elaborate an action plan on Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management and prepare a document. Each organization can send this document to the WFFP latest by 31 June 2009.

Clarification was sought as to whether environment groups or indigenous groups should be involved. It was decided that the WFFP would involve indigenous people and other progressive groups and not environmental groups.

Draft 3

These items should be treated by the WFFP and member organisations as a direct response to the Convention on Bio-Diversity which was formulated without the involvement of the fisherpeople.

The WFFP and member organisations should work with other progressive and indigenous groups to form alliances concerning Marine Protected Area and Coastal Zone Management.

They can bring out an action plan on Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management latest by the end of 2009.

Disaster Prevention and Management Autonomous Authority

The English speaking group presented.

The member organizations of the WFFP should lobby and advocate for a national disaster prevention and management authority in each country.

Fisher folk should initiate action plans in relation to disaster prevention and management.

Member nations and the WFFP would expose what happened to billions of dollars used in disaster prevention and management.

The French speaking group presented.

Managing natural disasters is the role of the state, but the Forum has demonstrated its capacity to act directly and help the victims of natural disasters. Communication, information and sensitization of government should be integrated in an action plan to disaster prevention and management.

Transborder issues: The English speaking group presented.

WFFP should set up a committee to address the issue of jailed fishers and trans-border issues; Member organizations of WFFP will set up a committee at the national level and compel governments to sign agreements among parties and states in such trans-border conflict or issues.

WFFP to write letters and demand that the government release the jailed fishers;

WFFP to demand that governments discuss the transborder issues and get help from human rights in this regard;

Formation of an Asian forum of fisher people, a chapter of the WFFP, that could help with the above recommendations;

The French speaking group presented.

Since the jailed fish workers are innocent, they should be treated as a global issue and it should be handled through legislations in individual countries.

Fish workers should be sensitized on international borders.

Further to the points discussed in the proposed action plan presented by Thomas Kocherry, the French speaking countries had a few more proposed action plan for the next three years:

On Gender Issues:

The question of women must be integrated in a sustainable way;

Capacity building for women;

Member organizations must organize exchange programmes between countries of women active in fisheries.

On training:

Member organizations to promote training specifically in safety at sea and fishery techniques;

On International trade:

Members should seek ways and means to promote an international fair trade of seafood and relate it to sustainable fisheries;

Promotion of continental fisheries and aqua-culture;

Solutions to dredging rivers, food sovereignty, more discussions on access to micro-finance;

14th Session

02.12.07

DRAFT FOR MAKING DECISIONS

Decision 1

It has been decided that all member organizations in each country to organize seminars at national levels on the ILO conventions by July 2008, and follow it up by lobbying with their respective national governments to include the interests of the shore-based fisher peoples and workers of processing units.

Decision 2

It has been decided that a committee of the WFFP formulate a policy on rights-based fishing following inputs from member organizations by March 2008.

Decision 3

It has been decided that all member countries be present at the FAO meeting 2008 in Bangkok

Decision 4

It has been decided that the WFFP apply for accreditation to be present inside the FAO meeting 2008 in Bangkok.

Decision 5

It has been decided to bring out an action plan on Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management latest by the end of 2009.

Decision 6

It has been decided that WFFP and member organizations work with indigenous peoples and other progressive groups to promote the interests of fishing communities in the context of Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management regulations.

Decision 7

It has been decided that member organizations of WFFP should initiate action plans to lobby national governments for an operationally autonomous national disaster prevention and management authority.

Decision 8

It has been decided that member organizations help investigate and expose misappropriation of funds meant for disaster prevention and management.

Decision 9

It has been decided that the WFFP set up committees at regional levels to address the issue of jailed fish workers and other trans-border issues in collaboration with human right groups.

Decision 10

It has been decided that the WFFP send letters to heads of governments demanding the release of jailed fish workers.

Decision 11

It has been decided that the WFFP, in accordance with Article 27 & 28 of the constitution, form continental fora that could address regional issues.

Decision 12

It has been decided that member organizations of the WFFP arrange exchange programmes between countries for women active in fisheries.

Decision 13

It has been decided that the WFFP encourage and give directions to member organizations to arrange for training programmes specifically in safety at sea and fishery technique.

Decision 14

It has been decided that WFFP encourage member organizations to promote social and welfare programmes such as micro-finance, training for employment, gender equity and local environmental and justice issues.

Decision 15

It has been decided with the help AGAMAR to draft a legal dossier on access to fisheries, resources and subsistence from a human and fundamental rights angle.