

AFRICAN CHAPTER

The African Chapter of WAS has gotten to another level as we strive to serve the interests of our members and the aquaculture community at large within the African continent. I say this with much exuberance and pleasure because the WAS Board has approved our plans for the Chapter's inaugural international conference and exposition – the First Aquaculture Africa Conference – scheduled for 2020. The conference will take place in Egypt, the continent's leader in aquaculture industry development. I believe many readers are aware of Egypt's phenomenal aquaculture growth over the past decades, with production volumes surpassing around 1.5 million t valued at nearly US\$430 million in 2017, according to the recent General Authorities for Fish Resources fish statistics book published in 2019. It is interesting to note that virtually all aquaculture output comes from small- and medium-scale privately owned farms and that nearly 1 million t of Nile tilapia is farmed in the country. Subject to government approval, we hope to hold the conference and exposition at the famous Alexandrina Bibliotheca in Alexandria City, which is right next to the epicenter of tilapia production in Egypt in the Nile Delta. Thus, attendees will have the opportunity to visit farms in the vicinity.

And what's more, Egypt has great tourist attractions worthy of a visit afterwards, such as the Pyramids of Giza, great museums,



desert, the Mediterranean coastline, among other world-class attractions. The Grand Egyptian Museum will be open in Giza by 2020, with a total cost expected to reach \$1 billion. The museum will contain over 100,000 artifacts reflecting Egypt's past from prehistoric through to the Greek and Roman periods. Egypt is also a relatively affordable country on many fronts.

So, we are working round the clock and step by step with the WAS conference management team and the Egyptian government to make this dream come true. Preparatory work has gathered speed. We are excited to host the convergence of our WAS members with African aquaculture stakeholders – governments, developmental agencies, NGOs, industry players, researchers, experts, students, other value chain actors and collaborators – to celebrate our achievements recognized from the aquaculture sector in Africa over the past decades. The event will also highlight some of the latest aquaculture research, innovations and investments that underpin continued growth of this exciting food production sector in Africa. The event will consist of a scientific forum with oral and poster presentations, a trade exhibition, industry forums, workshops, student events and other organized side meetings. Highly esteemed keynote speakers from Africa and beyond are expected. It is expected that

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ASIAN PACIFIC CHAPTER

This is my last column as APC president. It has been my honor to serve with those who will be stepping down and with those who are coming on board. My term as Past-President will end at World Aquaculture 2020 in Singapore. By the time you read this, the APC elections will have concluded and new officers and directors will be preparing to begin their service at APA19 in Chennai. I extend my warm welcome to all new board members and also express my thanks to outgoing board members for their service to the APC board. As always, many thanks to the APC secretariat for continued support and help.

I started my career as a technical associate in a private aquaculture company and joined Tamil Nadu Fisheries University later as an Assistant Professor. I rose to various positions in the University by serving as Associate Professor and Professor and now as Vice-Chancellor. I come from a normal fisherfolk family and am grateful for the support of many people and my professional colleagues who elected me President of the Asian Pacific Chapter of WAS. Realizing the potential for aquaculture in India, I have been working tirelessly my entire career to promote many new and innovative aquaculture technologies. By obtaining R&D grants from various agencies, I developed many successful aquaculture systems for adoption in India and set a trend for many Asian countries.



So, this has been a hectic year so far! Besides working on my regular administrative routines and research work in the university, I am also leading APC activities to make sure the chapter and members are staying the course to keep the APC relevant and up-to-date on news items that would be of interest to chapter members and the aquaculture industry.

I have contributed to the growth of the APC by enrolling more than 100 members every year by conducting various national and international conferences and workshops in Chennai. I am very grateful to the Tamil Nadu government and their support made me take up the Asian Pacific Aquaculture 2019 event in India. Coming from the first batch of fisheries college students, I made sure that the present generation of students and farmers will get exposure to this international event. I am satisfied that we will conduct this event in India where all our young minds will get an opportunity to meet many international delegates.

My experience with the APC board always goes with emotion in saying "I'm closely associated and bonded with the APC board" because I've served two years as a director and then was elevated to Chapter President. The Board really helped me

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secure and to prevent proxy voting. These changes include member IDs no longer being used as passwords and computer software code that can detect proxy voting attempts. We regret the imposition to both the candidates and the membership due to the re-vote but sincerely felt that the integrity of the election process demanded the delay.

The Society is eagerly awaiting the next two Chapter Conferences. The Asian Pacific Chapter is hard at work on the Asian

Pacific Aquaculture (APA'19) Conference and Exposition to be held June 19-21, 2019 in Chennai, India. LACQUA19 will be the 2019 Annual meeting of the Latin American & Caribbean Chapter held November 19-22, 2019 in San José, Costa Rica. San José will be the site for the WAS Board of Directors Mid-year meeting. I look forward to seeing the WAS Board, the LACC Board, and members in beautiful Costa Rica!
— *Jimmy L. Avery, President*

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around 850 people from Egypt, Africa and worldwide will attend Africa Aquaculture 2020. In addition, around 135 Egyptian and international aquaculture commercial companies will be part of the trade show.

As a big boost to aquaculture development in Africa, this First Aquaculture Africa Conference 2020 will be a good opportunity to define the course to take. Different technical and administration tools are needed to support the continent's developmental agenda because currently aquaculture is only contributing less than 2 million t, or around 2.5 percent of global aquaculture.

In this regard, we are indebted to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation that has agreed to be the main hosting agency, with its affiliated agencies such as the General Authority for Fish Resources Development, the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research and WorldFish. The Egyptian Aquaculture Society, with its volunteer membership of over 350 and also a key affiliate of WAS, will also be instrumental in planning and hosting this conference and exposition.

I am also appreciative of the gesture demonstrated by other par-

ties in supporting this big upcoming event, such as by Aller Aqua (our Chapter Founding Gold Sponsor), Skretting Egypt and some Egyptian academic institutions. We continue to welcome more parties and collaborators on board. The African Union Development Agency (formerly NEPAD) has promised to walk the journey with us.

With reference to the structure and governance of the Chapter, I promised in my previous chapter report to discuss our intentions to elect a permanent board for the Chapter, as we have been operating under an Interim Board since Chapter inception. The nomination process has just started and after elections we hope to have our first substantive permanent board by next quarter, a team that is willing to serve and take the chapter forward.

I urge and remind all aquaculture stakeholders from within Africa and from outside Africa with interest in aquaculture in Africa to join WAS or renew your memberships such that you continue to enjoy many of the benefits in store. On the registration portal, do not forget to choose the African Chapter as the chapter of choice.

Let's all team together and build the African Chapter we want!
— *Sherif Sadek, Interim President*

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to learn many things and provided an opportunity to expand my professional network, which has greatly benefitted the students and faculty of my university. Many undergraduate students have been sent out to foreign countries for their internship for the first time and I am sure that those students have seen the light of experience and are happy with their international exposure. These sorts of activities brings a feeling of fulfilment and I am thankful to the board and will be happy to see its growth in the coming years!

I thank all the steering committee members of APA19 and the conference management team, especially John Cooksey, Mario Stael and Noah Cooksey, for doing such a wonderful job. I also thank the APC Chapter secretary Ms. Nate and national organizing secretary Ms. Menaga for contributing a lot to the APA19 meeting. I also thank all the program chairs, session chairs and co-chairs, ICAR fisheries institutes and state fisheries universities, sponsors and industry people who have participated and made this event successful.

One of the important benefits of your WAS membership is free online access to all issues of the Journal of the World Aquaculture Society (JWAS). As always, we strongly encourage

members of the APC to support the journal and submit your quality manuscripts to JWAS. I also would like to remind you that the APC is posting selected magazine articles translated to Chinese on the APC website. Now WAS has a strategic partnership with the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) and you'll benefit much by having membership in two major organizations with a single payment.

The next APC conference (World Aquaculture 2020) will be held in Singapore on 8-12 June 2010. I encourage your active participation in this major international conference. I finish this column by wishing that all of you – scientists, students, producers and all aquaculture enthusiasts – keep working hard to improve sustainable aquaculture production in the APC region.

I thank all APC members for entrusting me with the leadership of our chapter and I am grateful to our staff and governing board members for their tireless efforts on behalf of the organization. On behalf of the APC Board of Directors, I invite each one of you to get engaged in WAS. This is YOUR society and its strength and success depend on YOU!

— *S. Felix, President*