

Message from the Past and Current AFS Presidents

The 9th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum held on April 21-25, 2011 at the Shanghai Ocean University was privileged to host the 3rd Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, as a follow up to the women/gender and fisheries Symposia held in the previous triennial Fora. In fact, since the 5th Forum in 1998, the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) has blazed a proud tradition by providing a venue for professionals and advocates to share their research and action programs, exchange ideas, and network on, initially “women in fisheries,” and into its current format as “gender in fisheries.” Every triennial meeting has since drawn a growing delegation of new researchers and advocates, and the continuing presence of committed persons who regularly participate in the symposia.

For the first time the AFS Journal (Asian Fisheries Science Journal) is publishing a special issue on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries featuring papers presented during the 2011 Global Symposium. We believe it is a credit to the Society to publish an issue dedicated to the concerns and challenges of women and gender in the fisheries sector in the Asia-Pacific region and even beyond. The themes captured by the journal articles are wide ranging – descriptions of women’s changing status, gendered dynamics in fisheries development projects, tools for mainstreaming gender, women’s livelihoods in aquaculture and fish-processing, micro-finance in coastal communities – showing the complexity of women and gender issues in fishing and aquaculture but also highlighting the common threads that run through these issues despite separation of culture and physical boundaries.

We congratulate the Co-editors for their diligence in seeing this volume through to publication. A special note of thanks to Meryl Williams, the convenor of the Global Symposium for her sustained leadership of the “women and gender in fisheries” theme.

Ida M.L. Siason



AFS Past-President (2009-2011)

Derek J. Staples



AFS President (2011-2013)