



12 September, 2010

KOCHI CONFERENCE ON TRACK FOR BREAKTHROUGHS

Following the latest review of the Asian Pacific Aquaculture 2011 Conference and Exposition by the Steering Committee at meetings in Kochi from 10-12 September co-Chairmen Dr C Mohanakumaran and Mr. Roy Palmer were happy with the progress and predicted an exciting event for the first international aquaculture conference held in India, the world's second largest seafood producer.

Dr Mohanakumaran said "We are pleased the way that the Indian governments, industry and academia are embracing the event and with their support and the excellent facilities at Le Meridian Convention complex we are confident that this will be an exciting event. With NRDB collaboration we will be having approximately 500 farmers visiting the event for one day when they will be treated to hearing some overseas specialists talking about issues which will be focused on their development. This typifies the opportunities that the Conference and Trade Show will be bringing to India."

The Expo has already been in demand and is now one third sold but with a limit on the number of booths available it is important for potential Expo clients to get in quickly.

Roy Palmer said "The Indian seafood export industry is poised to achieve 5 billion US\$ level by 2012 with 75% contribution from value-added products so processing and packing technology is widely sought by the Indian processors. Whilst several major feed plants have been established recently with overseas assistance the demand for feed, particularly the extruded feed is on the rise. Additionally there also a huge potential market for aquaculture medicine, husbandry and hatchery technical knowledge."

It is no wonder that Conference is attracting much attention as it will run parallel with the Giant Prawn'11 meeting which is being run for the first time since its original event 30 years ago.

Plenary speakers will include Dr Jia Jiansan, Head of Aquaculture, FAO; Dr Krishnaiah, Chief Executive NFDB; Ms Leena Nair, Chairman MPEDA, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary DARE & Director General ICAR, Govt. of India and, still to be confirmed, but likely, Dr Muhammad Yunus. These speakers will inspire everyone in aquaculture and will set the Conference off to a great start.

International Program Chairman, Professor Jose Fernandes-Polanco, said "We have extended the abstract deadline until 30 September and the recent influx of receipts will ensure that we have a full program. We have Indian and international co-Chairs for each session which will help us ensure good networking and excellent opportunities for extension.

Besides the Welcome Ceremony, where the Indian Prime Minister has been invited to do the honours, the other main entertainment is the Presidents' Reception and that will feature a fish barbecue and Bollywood style entertainment at the Fisheries College KAU. Extra effort is being made with all catering in informing the delegates about all aspects of the succulent seafood that will be on offer.

All details regarding the event can be seen at www.was.org and www.apa2011.org including all details of the Farm Tours and Sightseeing Tours.