

SAMUDRA

for Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



WHAT'S ON TODAY

- Inauguration and introductions
- SSF access to resources
- Group discussions
- Dinner and cultural programme

Side note

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022).

ICSF is organizing four regional workshops and women's exchanges in 2022 in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe in partnership with fishworker organizations. The overall goal of these workshops is to strengthen the recognition of small-scale fisheries' crucial contributions to global food security and nutrition, the importance of tenure rights in the sector, and social development.

SAMUDRA for IYAFA 2022, published daily during the workshops, brings you programme updates, interviews with participants and short articles on SSF in the region.

For more information, write to icsf@icsf.net or manas.icsf@gmail.com



Yindi ton raab!

Welcome to Bangkok and welcome to the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) IYAFA 2022 Asia Workshop celebrating sustainable and equitable small-scale fisheries.

This is ICSF's first international workshop since 2016 and it's particularly exciting that this is our first international meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Asia Workshop brings together 58 participants from 11 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. They represent diverse fishworker organizations, NGOs and researchers, co-operatives and community organizations, including women's solidarity groups. (Twenty-eight women will lead the gender in fisheries exchanges on Day 3!) Many of these organizations contributed to the development of the SSF Guidelines.

In preparation for the workshop, we sent questionnaires to participants to learn about their work (see Pg4), the small-scale fisheries in their countries, and the status of these fisheries and fishing communities eight years after the endorsement of the SSF Guidelines in 2014.

As the responses from participants continue to trickle in, several important themes have emerged from the stories of the diverse small-scale fisheries in Asia, which you can read in subsequent newsletters. The responses pointed to similar threats faced by coastal fishing communities, including coastal reclamation, infrastructure development and destructive fishing practices, such as trawling. These threats have increased their vulnerability to climate change and disasters, which, all participants have emphasized, is a major challenge.

In some countries, constitutional or legal frameworks have allowed some decentralization in fisheries management, for example in the Philippines and Indonesia. In several countries, traditional fisheries institutions and practices (see the resources on the workshop webpage) have survived but remain unrecognized in formal law. Women play an active role in all these fisheries, including in harvesting activities in several countries. But they are largely invisible in policy and data on the sector.

All the responses point to the impacts of COVID-19 on SSF. Although fishing operations could continue during the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, restrictions on movement and markets affected the fisheries value chain and incomes of workers. Some countries with stronger social protection programmes successfully reached out to the most vulnerable populations (through cash- or food-based assistance, for instance). Overall, these protections were not adequate and communities relied on their fisheries to tide over the crisis or temporarily switched to other livelihoods.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are enthusiastic about the opportunity to connect and to work together to celebrate and secure small-scale fisheries in Asia!

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Overview of the Workshop

The objectives of ICSF's IYafa 2022 Asia Workshop are:

- To increase international engagement of fishworker organizations regarding food security, tenure rights and social development issues;
- To deepen cooperation between fishworkers and like-minded organizations regarding food security, tenure rights and social development; and
- To amplify the voices of women in the inclusive development of small-scale fisheries.

The workshop is an opportunity to take stock of how the SSF Guidelines are being implemented in Asia to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and nutrition, and promote the tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities.

The workshop will be in three days, plus an additional day for exchanges between Women in Fisheries (four days total). The workshop will focus broadly on discussing the obstacles to securing rights to food security and nutrition in fishing communities

and how small-scale fisheries contribute to the food security and nutrition of others in their local and national contexts. Another focal point of the discussions will be on how to ensure the protection of tenure rights in small-scale fisheries, including rights to access and use of marine and inland waters, and coastal and riparian lands.

The general structure of the workshop includes:

- Day 1: Discussions and presentations on access to resources for small-scale fishing communities
- Day 2: Discussions and presentations on social development for sustainable fisheries, food security and poverty eradication.
- Day 3: Exchanges between women in fisheries and development of a gender action plan
- Day 4: Development of a collective declaration or action plans on specific themes that participants want to prioritize.

What are participants saying?

The workshop can address lessons learned from countries with quota-based fishing policies and their impact on SSF. Indonesia plans to implement such a system. Second, what are the good practices of SSF economic institutions. Finally, what progress has been made on the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on fisheries subsidies?

- **Dani Setiawan**, KNTI, Indonesia

The encroachment of foreign fishing vessels from neighbouring countries into Malaysian waters affects local fishermen's livelihoods. This kind of illegal fishing needs to be addressed.

- **Azrilizam Omar**, Jaring, Malaysia

There are several types of fishers' organizations in Bangladesh, such as co-operatives, groups established by development programs, autonomous organizations at the local and national level, even fisher wings or sections of large political parties.

- **Md. Munir**, COAST Trust, Bangladesh

There are no specific laws for women in fisheries. But unified fisheries laws do not exclude women and are flexible. But they need to be supported and encouraged to play an active role and to express themselves.

- **Piya Thesayam**, Federation of Fisherfolk Associations, Thailand

Definitions

Tenure Tenure systems determine who can use which resources, for how long, and under what conditions. The systems may be based on written policies and laws, as well as on unwritten customs and practices. (FAO)

Social Development Processes of change that lead to improvements in human well-being, social relations and social institutions, and that are equitable, sustainable, and compatible with principles of democratic governance and social justice. (UNRISD)

In the context of the SSF Guidelines, factors that contribute to social development include affordable access to health, education, literacy and digital inclusion; housing, sanitation, drinking water and energy; and saving, credit and insurance; access to justice; decent work and reasonable returns to fishing communities from their labour and investment in fisheries.

Food security All people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, stability of supply, access and utilization. (FAO)

Social protection The set of public measures that a society provides for its members to protect them against economic and social distress that would be caused by the absence or a substantial reduction of income from work as a result of various contingencies (sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age, and death of the breadwinner); the provision of health care; and, the provision of benefits for families with children. (ILO)

Workshop webpage!

For each IYafa 2022 regional workshop, ICSF has launched a dedicated page on its new website, with resources, publications and useful information on SSF in the region. Visit the Asia Workshop page here:

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/asia-workshop-iyafa-2022-celebrating-sustainable-and-equitable-small-scale-fisheries/>

Implementing the SSF Guidelines in Asia

Mainstreaming SSF Guidelines in Asia

Today, SSF organizations, CSOs, development partners, IGOs, RFMOs, NGOs, foundations and research institutes are applying the SSF Guidelines in their work in Asia. The growing engagement by a multitude of actors is promising—and key to making the SSF Guidelines a reality on the ground.

Activities in Asia

The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), in their Executive Committee's 76th session held in 2017, welcomed continued support for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the national and regional levels. Then in their Seventh Regional Consultative Forum Meeting in 2019, APFIC acknowledged the need for *"reinforced legal frameworks and guiding policies to ensure a human rights-based and environmentally friendly development"* in line with the SSF Guidelines.

Translating the SSF Guidelines into languages of the region

The SSF Guidelines are available in the following languages spoken in the region: Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Indonesian (Bahasa), Japanese, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Oriya, Russian, Singhalese, Tamil, Telugu and Thai. Most of these translations have been prepared on the initiative of our partners, especially civil society organizations, including ICSF.

Efforts to advance human rights and gender issues

At the regional level, SEAFDEC organized an expert workshop on

implementing the SSF Guidelines with a focus on the human rights-based approach and gender equality in 2017. This resulted in a policy brief and a practical guide for gender analysis. SEAFDEC is now starting to apply this guide in selected countries with support from FAO.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) organized a regional seminar in Asia in November 2019 to discuss the role that national human rights institutions can play in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Tenure rights, resource management and the SDGs

Some examples of dedicated work of partners in the region to implement the SSF Guidelines at national level are national capacity building on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the SSF Guidelines in Myanmar, a national workshop on improving inland fisheries governance in India and a training on the Tenure Guidelines and the SSF Guidelines for civil society organizations in Sri Lanka.

Initiatives for safe and decent work

FAO worked with the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the International Labour Organization to prevent child labour in Cambodia, and FAO has funded and given input to a research summary on social protection in small-scale fisheries, conducted by WorldFish. Studies from the region.

From Implementing the SSF Guidelines in Asia and the Pacific by FAO. Read the full article here: <https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/news-and-events/detail/en/c/1272959/>

Profile of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia

Global fish production: 179 million tonnes
Asia fish production (excluding China): 61 million tonnes (34 %)
Asia workshop countries: 54 million tonnes

Global marine capture fisheries production: 84.4 million tonnes (Top 20 include Indonesia, India, Malaysia and Myanmar)
Asia (excluding China): 27 million tonnes (32 %)
Asia workshop countries: 23 million tonnes

Global inland fisheries production: 12 million tonnes (Top 20 include India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam and Pakistan)
Asia (excluding China): 6 million tonnes (50 %)
Asia workshop countries: 6 million tonnes

Global aquaculture fish production: 82.1 million tonnes
Asia (excluding China): 26 million tonnes (31 %)
Asia workshop countries: 25 million tonnes

Global employment in fishing and fish harvest: 59.51 million
Asia (including China): 50 million (85 %)
Asia workshop countries: 34 million

Global fishing fleet: 4.56 million vessels
Asia fleet: 3.1 million (68 %)
Asia motorized fleet: 2.1 million vessels
Asia non-motorized fleet: 947,000
Asia workshop countries: 1.8 million vessels



Who's at the workshop

- 1 Coastal Association for Social Transformation (COAST) Trust, Bangladesh
- 2 Coastal Fishers Association (CFA), Bangladesh
- 3 Community Fisheries (CFi) organizations, Cambodia
- 4 Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), Cambodia
- 5 National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), India
- 6 National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSF), India
- 7 Dakshin Foundation, India
- 8 Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia (KNNTI)
- 9 Kesatuan Perempuan Pesisir Indonesia (KPPI)
- 10 Solidaritas Perempuan Anging Mammiri, Indonesia
- 11 Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW), Indonesia
- 12 Ekologi Maritim Indonesia (EKOMARIN)
- 13 Jaring, Malaysia
- 14 Rakhine Coastal Region Conservation Association, Myanmar
- 15 Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF)
- 16 Tambuyog Development Center, the Philippines
- 17 PANGISDA, the Philippines
- 18 National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO), Sri Lanka
- 19 Jaffna District Fisheries Co-operatives Union, Sri Lanka
- 20 Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), Thailand
- 21 Federation of Thai Fisherfolk Association
- 22 Southern Fisherfolk Women's Association
- 23 Thai Sea Watch Association
- 24 Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD), Vietnam
- 25 Commune Fishery Tourism Service Cooperatives, Vietnam

Read the profiles of these organizations here: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/IYAFA_Asia_Workshop_Organizations_Profiles.pdf

The hosts

Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)

SDF is an NGO founded in 1996 and registered in 1999. SDF works to secure sustainable futures for resource-dependent communities and vulnerable natural ecosystems all across Thailand. SDF employs human rights, gender mainstreaming, and ethical governance principles to promote and support communities to become an active driver in achieving just and sustainable development.

Logistics

Currency: Thailand's official unit of currency is the Thai Baht (THB).

US\$ 1 = 35 THB or
Euro 1 = 36 THB (approx.)

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Transportation: Ratchaprarop (9 minutes) and Phaya Thai (20 minutes) are the closest subway and bus stations to the Berkeley Hotel. Airport Rail link to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport operates daily from 06:00 to 24:00. Trains depart every 10 to 15 minutes.

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

ICSF is an international NGO that works towards the establishment of equitable, gender-just, self-reliant and sustainable fisheries, particularly in the small-scale, artisanal sector. As a support organization, ICSF is committed to influence national, regional and international decision-making processes in fisheries so that the importance of small-scale fisheries, fishworkers and fishing communities is duly recognized.



Films on Asian SSF

An assortment of recent films on fisheries and coastal communities in Asia, selected by Alain Le Sann, President of the 'Pêcheurs du monde' (Fishers of the World) film festival in Lorient, France:

https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/IYAFA_Asia_Workshop_Films_on_SSF_in_Asia.pdf

ON THE AGENDA (6-8 MAY)

- Social development of SSF
- Women and gender in SSF
- Group discussions
- Panels and concluding remarks
- Monitoring Framework for the SSF Guidelines
- Workshop Statement