

New Director of IFM

At its last meeting the Board of IFM approved the appointment of Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed, as the Director of the Institute for Fisheries Management and Coastal Community Development, IFM beginning 1 February 2006. Dr. Ahmed is currently on sabbatical leave from the WorldFish Center for a book-writing project concerning trade, market access, poverty and resource sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture. He has been Programme Leader for Policy Research and Impact Assessment, and Discipline Director for Policy, Economics and Social Science respectively spanning nearly 10 years. Prior to rejoining the WorldFish Center in 1996 Dr. Ahmed was socioeconomic adviser for the Mekong River Commission, and he had previously worked with a number of agencies such as DANIDA, ADB, CIRDAP, and also Grameen Fish and Livestock Foundation and the University of Chittagong.

Dr. Ahmed is a leading fisheries economist with more than 25 years of experience in fisheries economics, policy, and market research. Living in South-East Asia for the last 22 years, he has spent most of his professional career on research, development and capacity building in fisheries and coastal sectors in Asia and the Pacific, and has developed collaborative linkages and partnerships with individuals and institutions in both developed and developing world. A former associate adjunct professor of University of the Philippines, Dr. Ahmed is the current President of the International Institute for Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET).

The Chairman of the Board of IFM, Professor Henrik Gislason, says, "IFM is fortunate to have Dr. Ahmed onboard at a time when IFM is planning to broaden its focus for fisheries management and coastal community development in line with the millennium development goals and WSSD goals throughout the world. We have been able to attract an excellent scientist with the necessary experience to allow IFM to continue and expand its activities, while maintaining the high quality of its work. Dr. Ahmed will provide strategic leadership, and develop networks and partnerships with institutions and individuals in both developing and developed countries. The core of IFM's agenda is to perform research and advisory services in relation to the sustainability, democracy and efficiency of management and decision-making. The next couple of years will be particularly challenging with the planned expansion of IFM's activities in Asia, and the strengthening of the links to Danish universities. I particularly look forward to cooperating with Dr. Ahmed on his effort to develop IFM-Asia networks and strengthen our alliances with the existing partners in Asia".

The former Director of IFM, Poul Degnbol, has from 1 January 2006 taken over a position in Brussels as Scientific Adviser in DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. The Board wishes to express its gratitude to Poul for the enthusiasm and creativity he has put into developing and managing IFM over the last 7 years. Over this period the number of employees has more than doubled. Without Poul's hard work and good ideas this would have been impossible.