

November 2008



**REGIONAL INTERGOVERNEMENTAL MEETING TO INITIATE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL FISHERIES
ORGANIZATION**

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 10 -12 November 2008

PROGRAMME OF MEETING (as distributed in September)

Background

The need to establish a regional organization for fisheries and aquaculture management and development collaboration has been recognized by the governments of the Central Asian region. The consensus among the governments is that such a regional arrangement would facilitate the sustainable management, development and expansion of fisheries and aquaculture among participating nations. In this regard, the experts at the Regional Workshop on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Central Asia: Status and Development Prospects, held in Antalya, Turkey, 11–14 December 2007 envisaged, among various other initiatives, the establishment of a regional fishery body or network organization for the wider Central Asian region. In April 2008, at the Regional Workshop on the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Central Asian region: a call to action, which was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the Government of Tajikistan confirmed that it was willing to host a first meeting to discuss the establishment of a regional organization for fisheries and aquaculture management and development. Several national level fisheries development strategy and planning workshops conducted in the past 2 years by governments of the Central Asian Republics, with the assistance of FAO and other institutions and governments, have also expressed the desirability of forming a regional cooperation arrangement.

In the light of the strong desire to develop a regional cooperation arrangement for fisheries and aquaculture development, FAO in collaboration with the governments of Central Asia has initiated a project that is aimed at establishing such a regional organization. A first step taken by the project is this **Regional Intergovernmental Meeting to Initiate the Establishment of a Central Asian Regional Fisheries Organization**. It is preceded by a regional review, survey and other consultations to develop the working documents for the Meeting.

Date and Venue

The Meeting shall be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. It will be held in Dushanbe on 10-12 November 2008 at the Conference Hall. The meeting participants will be staying in either the Tajikistan Hotel (22 Shotemur, Tel 992 44 600 99 33; room rates starting from US\$ 200 per night), or the Avesto Hotel – (105/1 Rudaki, Tel: 992 37 2221 12 80; room rates starting from US\$ 60 per night).

Mr Ahmadjon Gafurov, the meeting coordinator, (contact details below) will assist participants with making the necessary hotel reservations, airport transfers, visa requirements and other administrative and logistical arrangements.

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Objectives of the Meeting

The Meeting will have the following objectives:

1. To bring together Ministers and Directors responsible for capture fisheries and aquaculture from the wider Central Asian region in an inter-governmental meeting to discuss major regional fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues.
2. To discuss a proposal for the establishment of a regional fishery and aquaculture arrangement (network or regional commission), taking into consideration existing programmes, networks and institutional available capacity in the sector and related sectors.

It is intended that the Meeting provisionally adopts a draft agreement for the establishment of a regional fisheries and aquaculture organization.

The Meeting shall:

1. Formulate a draft agreement establishing a regional fisheries organization
2. Agree on the type of regional organization to be established
3. Agree on a Plan of Work that specifies steps to establish formally, organize and operate the regional organization.
4. Provisionally agree on the criteria to be used in the selection of the headquarters of the regional organization.
5. Agree on a list of priority regional Research and Development issues that a regional organization will address.

Expected Outputs

1. A draft Agreement establishing a Central Asia (and Caucasus?) regional fisheries and aquaculture management and development organization
2. A 2-year Plan of Work specifying the major tasks to be done, outputs of each task, schedules of work and deadlines, and provisional composition of working groups(or task forces).
3. An indicative technical work programme of the organization.

Participants

The Meeting shall be attended by policy makers/decision takers and technical experts of Ministries responsible for fisheries and aquaculture and foreign ministry (technical and economic cooperation department) officials from governments of the Central Asian and the Caucasus regions; resource persons from the Government of Turkey; and technical and legal experts from FAO. Observers from other international organizations and networks will be invited as considered appropriate by FAO and the Government of Tajikistan. The perspectives, experiences and views of representatives of other stakeholders including civil society, private sector and industry, donor agencies and development assistance organizations will enhance the discussions.

Workshop Agenda
10-12 Nov 2008

Day 1 November 10

0900 Registration of Participants

0930 Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Remarks Chairman (State Unitary Enterprise, Mohiparvar)
- Speech Chief (International Institutions and Liaison Service, FAO)
- Keynote Speech Minister for Agriculture of Tajikistan

0940 Break for

- Photo Session
- Press Conference
- Reception

1030 Procedural Matters

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Adoption of the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting
- Housekeeping announcements from the secretariat of the Meeting

1040 Objectives, Expected Outputs, Procedures of the Meeting
FAO SEC Technical Officer

1050 Discussion, clarifications of the objectives, outputs and procedures

1115 Statements of Governments and international organizations

The Chief Delegate of each Delegation will give a short statement of their Government's/Organization's views on regional cooperation in general and the establishment of a regional fisheries organization in particular.

1200 Discussion and clarification of statements.

1215 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session: Chair to be confirmed

1400 Presentation of the findings of the regional review

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review of the state of fisheries and aquaculture in the region that included an assessment of the resources management needs in the countries will be presented by the Consultant.

1430 Discussion of the review findings and recommendations

The discussion will be aimed at refining the conclusions and recommendations

1500 Break

1530 Presentation of the results of the questionnaire survey
The general findings of the survey, which was administered to Governments, will be presented. Only the findings that relate to the requirements of regional cooperation shall be described.

1600 Discussion of the survey findings
The discussion will focus on the major issues that relate to regional cooperation with the view of developing recommendations to address the issues.

1700 Announcements from the Secretariat

1705 End of Day 1 Sessions

1900 Welcome Dinner

Day 2 November 11

Morning Session: Chair to be confirmed

0900 Introduction of the Procedures for the Morning Session
FAO SEC Technical Officer

0905- 1100 Presentation of the proposal for the establishment of a regional fisheries and aquaculture organization.

This session will consist of four parts which will be presented by various resource persons. After each presentation of some 30 to 35 minutes, there will be time for questions and observations.

0905 - 1000

Lessons from other regional networks and bodies; comparative advantages, pros and cons of various types of arrangements for the region: by the Project Consultant

1000 -1015 Break

1015- 1100

Objectives and terms of reference of the regional organization including the (i) general principles (ii) membership (iii) management and operational structure (iv) working arrangements and (v) immediate and medium term priorities for the organization: by the Project Consultant

1100- 1145 Legal matters in relation to the establishment of a regional organization. By the FAO Legal Officer

1145- 1215 Financial support options for the fisheries and aquaculture organization. By FAO SEC Technical Officer

1215 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session: Chair to be confirmed

1400 -1445 Discussion

The discussion will be moderated by the Chair, with the presenters serving as panellists and resource persons. The discussion will aim at arriving a consensus on the type of regional organization to be established (i.e. an intergovernmental organization of fisheries and aquaculture centres and institutions (like NACA), a regional network of fisheries and aquaculture centres and institutions (like NACEE) or a regional fisheries organization like APFIC, RECOFI or

1445 - 1450 Introduction of the tasks and procedures of the afternoon's session.

Objectives of the Afternoon's Sessions. The sessions of this afternoon shall be focused towards formulating a Draft Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Organization.

The immediate objective is to develop a broadly acceptable Draft Agreement that the Meeting would provisionally adopt.

The Meeting will nominate a steering committee and recommend task forces to work on follow up activities.

Envisaged follow up actions: Using the Draft as the working document, the task forces will carry out follow up activities designed to refine the Draft in subsequent special technical workshops. The "refinement" tasks will include the development of the Organization's

1. technical work programme in research, training and information including the designation of centres and institutions that will participate in the various activities and their levels of participation;
2. funding and resource mobilization scheme including government contributions;
3. management and operational structure, systems and procedures (i.e. Advisory Board or Governing Council, Technical Advisory Body, Secretariat);
4. legal framework and procedures;
5. criteria for the selection of the host government and the contents of a host agreement;
6. constituting a Secretariat.

These technical workshops shall be composed of technical experts from the region assisted by international technical, management and legal experts from FAO and other relevant organizations. Their outputs will be consolidated into a Working Document for adoption in a regional plenipotentiary workshop to be convened by FAO in the first semester of 2009.

1450 - 1530 Objectives and structure of the Organization
Moderated by the Chair, assisted by FAO officer

1530- 1545 Break

1545 - 1630 Membership and Legal framework of the Organization
Moderated by the Chair with assistance from FAO legal officer

1630 -1730 Funding Options, Government Contributions and host agreements
Moderated by the Chair with assistance of FAO officials

1730 End of Day 2 Sessions
(No evening programme foreseen; participants make own arrangements)

Day 3 November 12

Morning Session: Field visit organized by the Host, the Government of Tajikistan.

1300 Lunch during field visit.

1400 -1600

Final Session: Chaired to be confirmed - at lunch location (held directly after the lunch)
Adoption of the Draft Summary Report of the Meeting and the Draft Agreement

1600 Closing Activities and return from field visit

1900 Farewell Dinner