

HD-BOBP DIALOGUE ON DEVELOPMENT OF A MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH NETWORK FOR THE BAY OF BENGAL REGION

14 Feb 2023



The Bay of Bengal rim countries are leaders in different areas of fisheries. The region contributes about 21% of global seafood production and is home to the largest conglomeration of the small-scale fisheries sector. The geo-political and socio-ecological attributes of the region are quite diverse and can be traced back to its eventful past. Despite the diversity, there is a cultural integrity that connect us and bound us to our traditions. However, this integration is yet to be fully reflected in research and development and to take a united position on issues of mutual interest.

Context

The marine fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region (BOBR) generates about USD 10 billion every year at the point of first sale and between USD 15 – 20 billion by the time it reaches the consumers plate. The revenue generated from the sector is vital for coastal communities living in the BOBR and very often the sole source of income for the community. Moreover, the fisheries sector is also a key sector in the national Blue Economy strategy of the rim countries as the countries aiming at optimizing the economic uses of the seas in a sustainable manner.

The focus of the fisheries R&D is usually framed around a biological framework often demonstrated in the form of the maximum sustainable yield. There is an increasing urgency to contextualize fisheries in terms of the emerging and disruptive threats (EDTs), such as climate change, overexploitation of fish stocks, IUU fishing, safety of fishers are transboundary in nature and need collaborative arrangement to address them. Though these areas are gaining attention from the R&D institutions, a regional platform for marine scientific research is yet to be in place.

Academic and research collaboration is a very valuable tool that not only accelerates the progress but also enhances the quality of the work. *However, the pattern of scientific cooperation in the region is predominantly between north and south. In the Bay of Bengal region, the research collaboration in terms of fisheries and aquaculture is not strong enough to create a global impact.* With more than 70 percent of the aquatic foods coming from South and South-East Asian countries, it is necessary to have a strong research network.

Purpose of the Dialogue

The key challenges of the Bay of Bengal region include changing climate, marine pollution, overfishing, and oil spill. The transboundary nature of these issues requires all the countries to come together and plan collaborative actions. Currently, there is no regional platform for enabling such collaborative research and creation of one such platform will help BOB littoral countries to address these and emerging challenges. Fisheries sector is also a key sector in the national Blue Economy strategy of the rim countries as the countries are aiming at optimizing the economic uses of the seas in a sustainable manner.

In this backdrop, the objectives of the dialogue are to:

- *Appreciate the transboundary nature of fisheries in BOBR.*
- *Assess the current status of collaboration among the BOB littoral countries and the need for strengthening the collaboration;*
- *Develop a roadmap for future regional cooperation on marine scientific research.*

The event will bring together, national and regional fisheries research agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), NGOs, and experts together, along with the representatives of Government and experts from BOB Countries to *deliberate on and decide a way forward.*

Expected Outcomes

The event is being planned with the objective of initiating a dialogue among various stakeholders on issues associated with the sustainable management of BOBR fisheries. This dialogue would provide an opportunity to discuss scope, objectives and modalities in the realm of development partnerships. Efforts would be made to collectively explore nuances of various narratives on South-South cooperation (SSC).

BOBP-IGO and HD are trying to strengthen communication and cooperation across various actors in the countries of the BOBR with the goal of greater regional management of the marine environment and fisheries in the BOBR.

Event Outline

- 09.00 - 09.30 hrs : Registration
- 09.30 - 10.30 hrs : Inauguration
- 10.30 - 11.00 hrs : Group Photo and Coffee Break
- 11.00 - 12.30 hrs : Country Presentations*
- 12.30 - 14.00 hrs : Lunch Break
- 14.00 - 15.00 hrs : Break-out Sessions
- 15.00 - 15.30 hrs : Tea Break
- 15.30 - 16.15 hrs : Plenary Session (Group Presentation / Discussion)
- 16.15 - 16.45 hrs : Closing Session



0930 - 1030	Session I: Opening Session	
0930 - 0935	Opening Remarks	Amb. Venu Rajamony , <i>IFS, Senior Advisor for South Asia at HD</i>
0935 - 0945	Setting the Context	Dr. P. Krishnan , <i>Director, BOBP-IGO</i>
0945 - 1030	Guests of Honour	Dr. J.K. Jena , <i>DDG (Fisheries), ICAR, DARE, GoI</i> Amb. Rudrendra Tandon , <i>IFS, Additional Secretary (BIMSTEC), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Govt. of India.</i> Shri. Jatindra Nath Swain , <i>IAS, Secretary (Fisheries), Dept. of Fisheries (DoF), Govt. of India</i>
1030 – 1100	Group Photo & Coffee break	
1100 - 1245	Session II: Country Presentations	
	Co-chairs:	Dr. Nahid Rashid , <i>Secretary, Min. of Fisheries & Livestock, Govt. of Bangladesh</i> Dr. Oscar Amarasinghe , <i>Chancellor, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, Colombo & Former Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Colombo</i>
	Each country shall make a coordinated presentation (12 min) comprising:	
	(a) Region/Countries' need for collaboration;	
	(b) Potential areas of collaboration;	
	(c) Potential Institutes and Universities for collaboration/network;	
	(d) Existing Frameworks in the country for facilitating collaboration and Experience sharing;	
	(e) Expected outcome & application.	
1100 – 1112	Bangladesh	Mr. Yahia Mahmud , <i>Director General, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI), Mymensingh</i>
1112 – 1124	India	Dr. C.N. Ravishankar , <i>Vice Chancellor, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai</i>
1124 – 1136	Indonesia	Dr. Romi Novriadi , <i>Jakarta Technical University of Fisheries, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries</i>
1136 – 1148	Malaysia	Prof. Dr. Muta Harah Zakaria , <i>Head, Dept. of Aquaculture, Faculty of Agriculture, University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia</i>
1148 – 1200	Maldives	Mr. Riyaz Ahmed Jauharee , <i>Maldives Marine Research Institute (MMRI), Male', Maldives</i>
1200 – 1212	Myanmar	Dr. Kay Lwin Tun , <i>Head of Department, Department of Zoology, University of Yangon, Yangon</i>
1212 – 1224	Sri Lanka	Dr. M.S.J. Wijeyarathne , <i>Chairman, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo</i>
1224 – 1236	Thailand	Dr. Suriyan Tunkujjanukij , <i>Dean, Dept. of Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Bangkok</i>
1245 – 1400	Lunch break	
1400 -1500	Session III: Group Discussion	
	The participants will be divided into THREE groups. Each group will be supported with a facilitator from the organizers. The Group will identify a representative for moderation and making plenary presentation. Three broad areas for the group discussion:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Functional arrangement of networking platform - Potential Organizational set-up for creating the platform (Central coordinating body or bilateral/multilateral arrangement between countries addressing common themes).</i> • <i>Seeking government Support - Strategies for seeking political support to the platform.</i> • <i>Financial arrangements: Innovative models for operation.</i> 	
1500 – 1530	Coffee Break	
1530 – 1645	Session IV: Concluding Session	
	Panel: Senior Bureaucrats from Bay of Bengal Rim countries	
1530 – 1600	Group Presentations	Each Group Facilitator will present the summary in 5-7 min each
1600 – 1615	Discussion	Participants
1615 – 1645	Special Remarks	Panel Members
1645 - 1655	Closing Remarks & Way Forward	
	Mr. Willmen Punt , <i>Coordinator for South Asia at HD</i>	
1655 - 1700	Words of Thanks	Dr. P. Krishnan , <i>Director, BOBP-IGO</i>

Bangladesh

Dr. Nahid Rashid, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Dhaka

Dr. Kamal Haque, Director General (Fisheries), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Dhaka

Mr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI), Mymensingh

Dr. Md. Abul Mansur, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh

India

Dr. J. Balaji IAS, Joint Secretary (Marine), DoF, MFAHD, Govt. of India

Dr. C. Suvarna IFS, Chief Executive, NFDB, DoF, MFAHD, Govt. of India

Dr. C.N. Ravishankar, Vice Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai

Dr. G. Sugumar, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu J. Jayalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU)

Dr. Rosalind George, Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences (KUFOS) Kochi, Kerala

Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Director, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi

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Former and Serving VCs/Directors / Deans & Senior Faculty/Researchers / Officials from Fisheries Institutions and Development Departments

Indonesia

Dr. Romi Novriadi, Jakarta Technical Univ. of Fisheries, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Jakarta

Malaysia

Prof. Dr. Muta Harah Zakaria, Head, Dept. of Aquaculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Univ. Putra Malaysia (UPM), KL.

Dr. Sitti Raehanah Muhamad Shaleh, Assoc. Prof, Borneo Marine Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Sabah

Myanmar

Dr. Nyo Nyo Tun, Professor and Head of Department, Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University, Yangon

Dr. Yin Yin Htay, Professor, Department of Marine Science, Patheingyi University, Yangon

Maldives

Dr. Mohamed Shainee, Ex-Minister of Fisheries, Maldives & Res. Assoc, Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA

Mr. Riyaz Ahmed Jauharee, Maldives Marine Research Institute (MMRI), Ministry of Fisheries Marine Resources and Agriculture, Male'

Dr. Shiham Adam, Former DG, MMRI & Director of Science and IPNLF Maldives

Sri Lanka

Mr. Talangama Appuhamilage Chaminda Namal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Development (MFARD), Colombo

Mr. Dhammika Ranatunga, Director General (Technical), MFARD, Colombo

Mr. Sushantha Kahawatte, Director General, MFARD, Colombo

Dr. M.S.J. Wijeyarathne, Chairman, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo

Dr. Oscar Amarasinghe, Chancellor, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, Colombo & Emeritus Professor, University of Ruhuna, Colombo

Thailand

Dr. Suriyan Tunkujjanukij, Dean, Dept. of Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Bangkok

Dr. Krishna R. Salin, Program Chair, Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AARM), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok

Mr. Thaweesak Thimkrap, Marine Engineering Section Head, SEAFDEC, Bangkok

Others

Delegates from ICES and FAO

HD / BOBP Team

About the Organizers**Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)**

The BOBP-IGO is a regional fishery advisory body with Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka as its contracting parties. It is mandated to enhance cooperation amongst its member-countries and other countries (especially, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand) for sustainable fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal region. The Organisation evolved from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) founded in 1979. The BOBP-IGO Secretariat is located at Chennai. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India is the nodal agency from India and the hosting agency.

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)

HD is an International non-profit organization founded on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. It aims to prevent, resolve, and mitigate conflict through dialogue and mediation. It contributes to conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution through diplomacy and dialogue. HD has been involved in organizing BOB Maritime Dialogue Series involving experts from the region. The first Dialogue was held in 2021 and the second in 2022, the key decision of which was to organize an event to network academic and research organizations in the region.