

Recent BOBP publications



Abstracts: The Third International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health

This concise 76-page publication contains the abstracts of some 45 papers presented at the Third International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health, held in Mahabalipuram from February 1 through 7, 2006. It was organized by the BOBP-IGO jointly with the FAO and the Alaska field station of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA.

Together, these abstracts open the window to a world of knowledge relating to safety, health, injuries, fishing vessel construction, labour standards, mechanization, training, work processes, fuel use, emergency responses, rescue at sea, monitoring, tsunami rehabilitation etc. Write to BOBP for a copy of the publication.

Socio-economic status of workers in the salt industry in India: a report

This 184-page book was prepared by the BOBP-IGO for the Salt Commissioner, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is based on a 15-month field study conducted from September 2004 to December 2005 by an IGO team that met more than a thousand salt workers from seven states – Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal.

These seven states account for about



99 percent of India's salt production and employ about 100 000 workers a day. The team also met field officers of the Salt Commissioner's office. The IGO team, assisted by local investigators, used a combination of methods – structured and pre-tested questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions – to obtain reliable data on this un-organized sector.

The study team reported a dichotomy. Salt production has gone up more than eight-fold since independence, from 1.9 million tonnes in 1947 to 1.49 million tonnes in 2003. But an estimated half a million salt workers in India suffer from an array of problems – exploitation, lack of social security, gender bias, poverty, backwardness.

Some of the team's recommendations concerning the salt workers: Create a data base and undertake a full census. Register all salt workers. Guarantee employment. Fix minimum wages. Improve workplace amenities, such as access to potable drinking water and mobile clinics. Recruit health workers from the salt workers' community. Set up a group insurance scheme. Improve and widen credit access. Set up child crèches and schools. Modernise the industry without marginalizing small-scale salt units. Standardise production techniques. Improve power supply. Strengthen infrastructure for storage and transport of salt, with jetties and efficient rail rakes.

The book has been authored by Dr Y S Yadava, Rajdeep Mukherjee and Ram Mundhe.

Report of the Third Governing Council Meeting

The Governing Council, the top advisory and policy-making body of the BOBP-IGO, meets every year to review the IGOs progress and discuss future plans. This

publication reports on what happened at the Council's meeting in Malé, Maldives, on May 2 and 3, 2007.



It includes the IGO's report of its work after the previous meeting (the period January 2006-March 2007); a report on the second Technical Advisory Meeting of the IGO held on 5 and 6 February, 2007; and proposed programmes for 2007.

The programmes for 2007 include translation of the technical guidelines on marine fisheries which follow from the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; training programmes for junior and middle-level fisheries staff on implementation of the Code; setting up of a regional information network; organization of a fisherfolk week; information preparation and dissemination; a regional workshop on resource monitoring, control and surveillance; preparation of a regional management plan for the hilsa and shark fisheries.

Bangladesh will host the next meeting of the Governing Council early in 2008 (subject to approval by the government).

Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-Scale Fishers in the Philippines Reports of Phase 1 (10-17 July 2006), Phase 2 (10-19 September, 2006) and Phase 3 (11-16 February, 2007).

By universal consent, CBFM (community-based fisheries management) is the surest and the most effective type of fisheries management, since it is undertaken by fishing communities themselves, who perceive it to be in their best interest. Japan is therefore funding CBFM in Asia through a series of country-centred training projects carried out by small-scale fishers and their organizations (fisheries co-

operatives, in most cases). Philippines was selected as the first country for this project, covered in Japanese FY 2006 (April 2006-March 2007).

The project is being implemented by the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). The project's stated aims: to promote CBFM by small-scale coastal fishers and their organizations; strengthen their activities; and thereby help sustainable production, job opportunities and poverty alleviation. BOBP-IGO is advising ICFO in implementation of the project.

The project has three phases for every country. Under Phase 1, Japanese and other experts visit the selected country to study CBFM and make recommendations; Phase 2 – a team of select fishers visit Japan to study fisheries resource management activities there. Under Phase 3, a concluding project workshop is held in the selected country.

The report of Phase 1 discusses the visit to the Philippines from 10 to 17 July 2006 by four experts: Dr Y S Yadava of the BOBP-IGO; Dr Masahiro Yamao, professor in the graduate school of biosphere science, Hiroshima University, Japan; and Mr Masaki Sato, secretary of the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization, Tokyo, Japan.

The report describes the legal, policy and institutional framework of fisheries management in the Philippines; the expert team's observations on fishery resources.

The report of Phase 2 discusses in detail the 10-day visit by a 12-member Philippines study team to Japan for exposure to its fisheries management System. Participants visited the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market, the fisheries division of the Okinawa Prefectural Government for presentations by the staff there, the Okinawa Local Wholesale Fish



Market, the Nago Fisheries Cooperative Association, and the Yanbaru Bussan Centre.

The report discusses the participants' observations on how far Japan's fishery management system is applicable to the Philippines. They were impressed by the rules and regulations adopted by fishers themselves about restricting fishing periods, about not catching juveniles, about conserving spawning and breeding areas. A long tradition of CBFM and the 'fishery rights' provided to FCAs contributed to the success of fishery resource management. The information readily available on commercially important fish stocks also enabled formulation of management options. The Resources Recovery Plan to address resource decline, and the strong political will in Japan, were important factors in Japan's success story with management.

Could a similar system be introduced in the Philippines? There were problems of leadership, governance, values and attitudes, the participants felt. Knowledge of fishery resources had to be strengthened. A practical system to confer fishing rights to fishermen's associations had to be developed. Policies for an open and closed season had to be formulated.

Mangrove plantations had to be promoted, marine protected areas set up, fish aggregating devices promoted, law enforcement by the community encouraged. Some other suggestions: A study covering socio-economics, the concerns of fishers, resource management practices, existing laws, etc; seminars and workshops for training; livelihood projects; auction markets; development of educational materials.

The report of phase 3 discusses the proceedings of a seminar held in the Philippines (in Puerto Princesa city, Palawan) on "Promotion of community-based fishery resource management by coastal small-scale fishers in the Philippines". Forty nine persons from the fisheries co-operative sector and from the government took part. The aim of the seminar was capacity-building of fisheries cooperative leaders.

The Palawan Declaration adopted at the seminar made several recommendations. It urged nationwide adoption by local government units (LGUs) of ordinances now being implemented by the provincial government of Palawan on coastal resource management. It urged upgrading of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to a Department; technical assistance from the National Mapping Resource Information Authority in demarcating municipal waters that were off-limits to certain commercial fishing boats; technical assistance to fishery cooperatives from the Cooperative Development Authority; special attention on rescue of fishermen lost at sea by the Navy and the Coast Guard of the Philippines.

Recent issues of "Bay of Bengal News"

March 2006: A special package on improving the safety and health of fishers, based on the deliberations of IFISH-3 (the Third International Conference on Fishing Industry Safety and Health) at Mahabalipuram near Chennai from February 1 to 4, 2006, and on a post-tsunami workshop at the same venue from February 6 to 7, 2006.

June 2006: A special issue on "25 years of *Bay of Bengal News*, a success story in development journalism," with articles and reader responses recalling the best in content, photography and visuals from 80 issues of BBN.

September 2006: A miscellany of articles, papers and reviews. Editorial on fishery resource

challenges.

An interview with Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General for

Fisheries at FAO, Rome. Papers on safety at sea from the IFISH-3 conference and the tsunami workshop. An article on NARA, Sri Lanka. Glimpses into Japan's fish markets. A review of the Marine Fisheries Census for India, 2005.

December 2006-March 2007:

Another diverse issue. The March 2007 meeting of COFI (Committee on Fisheries), Rome. Papers from IFISH-3.

A catchy center-spread about the posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Articles on the Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai, and the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh, Bangladesh. A summary of FAO's annual publication SOFIA (the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture) for 2006.

Posters on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries:

A thousand copies each have been printed of a dozen eye-catching posters that focus on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The posters carry pithy concise text and imaginative sketches. (See *Bay of Bengal News*, December 2006-March 2007).

The Code of Conduct – in regional languages



Materials on the CCRF have to be produced in the vernacular so that fishers read and absorb them – and put what they read into practice.

The BOBP-IGO organized translations in Tamil of the “Technical Guidelines” relating to the Code of Conduct – which contain advice and explanations about the code dealing with fishing craft, fishing gear, aquaculture, etc. A set of 10 “Technical Guidelines and Plans of Action on Marine Fisheries” in Tamil have been produced. Many of them were handed over to fishers and to the Department of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu, at a one-day workshop on the Code held recently in Chennai.

Likewise, a simple 16-page version of the Code has been organized and printed in Bengali and Marathi. Copies were sent for dissemination to the Director of Fisheries, West Bengal, and the Director of Fisheries, Maharashtra.



Video films on the tsunami and on India's salt workers

Two recent video films prepared by the BOBP-IGO deal with the conditions of salt workers in India, and tsunami rehabilitation (the latter film focuses mainly on India and Sri Lanka).

The half-hour film on salt workers, titled “75 years after Dandi: India's salt workers look for their place in

the sun,” takes a historical look at the salt industry, and discusses the activities and conditions of salt workers. It contains interviews with salt workers and managers and recommendations for the industry.

The film on the tsunami briefly describes its havoc and discusses the problems and challenges of rehabilitation. Officials from the region, FAO experts and fishers are interviewed about action needed.

Calendars – 2006 and 2007

How do children with an artistic bent react to the tsunami? The BOBP-IGO held art contests for school children in four centers of Tamil Nadu, also in Sri Lanka and Maldives. These were described in *Bay of Bengal News* (September and December 2005). A selection of these beautiful paintings adorned the unique 2006 calendar. Several organisations/ agencies sponsored the production of this calendar.

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is the theme of the 2007 calendar. It contains brief text and sketches in colour. The calendar was sponsored jointly by the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad; and the BOBP.



Bay of Bengal News is a quarterly publication of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The BOBP-IGO is a regional fisheries body, which presently covers four countries around the Bay of Bengal – Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The BOBP-IGO plays a catalytic and consultative role in developing coastal fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk in the member-countries.

