



Joint Pledge/Statement of Support to the Shanghai Declaration, Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20

Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF)
&
Thai Union Feed Mill PCL (Thai Union)

We are pleased to participate in the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20 and to join in committing ourselves to the Shanghai Declaration: Aquaculture for Food and Sustainable Development.

We share the view that the timing of the conference could not have been more appropriate. The conference focuses attention on one of the major challenges that the international community has ever encountered. Indisputably, the current trend of global growing population has major implications for our common future. We have before us the most daunting challenge of meeting the nutritional requirements of all our people. We are called upon to address this challenge by adopting policies and initiating actions which will help us.

Collectively working to leverage the potentials of a sustainably growing aquaculture sector, as it is rightly stressed in the Shanghai Declaration, will certainly be a move in the right direction for the current Millennium and beyond. We fully share the belief that urgent targeted actions to ensure increasing aquatic food production and products “can provide inclusive, effective and sustainable pathways to reduce poverty, secure livelihood opportunities and under pin food security and nutrition”- all key SDGs to which member countries of the United Nations are committed.

Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF) – a non-profit research and advocacy organization, presently working with the Government of Bangladesh, stakeholders in the country’s significant and aquaculture sector, development partners and Thai Union Feed Mill PCL (Thai Union) – a leading private sector entity unremittingly working to bring about business solutions for sustainable development, fully join in the shared commitment to the strategic priorities outlined in the Shanghai Declaration, pursuit of which will be critical to accelerate sustainable aquaculture development and contribution of aquaculture sector to the attainment of SDGs.

BSFF and Thai Union are presently working closely to share and disseminate knowledge, information and technology, to help develop aquaculture sector in Bangladesh, especially by introducing modern technologies, new fish species like Sea Bass in the coastal region of Bangladesh which can be produced in brackish water conditions as a mitigation measure in the context of climate change related adverse impacts. Our two organizations are also cooperating in widely disseminating useful insights on high production friendly input use and input application processes. Our collaboration demonstrates how cooperation between center of excellences and organizations working in the area of policy advocacy and innovations and private sector entities can make valuable contribution for the sustainable development of aquaculture sector.

Positive outcomes of our cooperation have made us hopeful about the great potential of strengthening partnership to generate and share knowledge while facilitating transfer of technology for growth. We are therefore fully adding our pledge and support to **Priority 3** in the Shanghai Declaration. The priority emphasizes on the global development cooperation and networking among existing and planned centers of excellence, including through providing international and regional organizations like Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and relevant networking arrangements as well as developing countries with financial, technological and capacity building assistance. We also strongly support the need for Government to Government (G2G) and Business to Business (B2B) cooperation and greater emphasis to be given to translating the fruits of technological innovations into actionable practices. **Priority 4** in the Shanghai Declaration i.e., importance of investment in aquaculture innovations and research, we believe, should continue to receive the highest attention it deserves.

BSFF and Thai Union wish the Shanghai Conference all success.

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