

Closing of the conference

Closing remarks

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Dear Participants and Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to preside over the closing ceremony of the Conference on Global Trade in Aquaculture. On behalf of the Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organization, I would like to thank all of you for your valuable contribution to the success of this Conference. In fact I am tempted to call it the First (or the Qingdao) Conference on Global Trade in Aquaculture, because I am sure all of you will agree with me that with this conference we have initiated a much needed forum to discuss important issues of aquaculture and global trade. I am certain that all of you will be awaiting the 2nd conference with great expectations because all of us feel that we have learned a great deal from each other, that we have touched upon very interesting issues of aquaculture in international trade and that we have developed valuable contacts that future conferences will nurture and enrich further.

Indeed, the Conference enabled us to listen to over 30 eminent speakers who addressed around 400 participants from over 30 countries, companies and organizations for which aquaculture and trade in aquaculture products are extremely important. I would like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of FAO and on your behalf all the speakers who despite their very busy schedule took the time to come and share their experiences and thoughts with us.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to INFOFISH, INFOYU, the Bureau of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture of China, the Chinese steering Committee, the organizing and advisory Committees of the Conference and to my professional and general staff from FAO, who have spent many hours of hard work to plan, coordinate, prepare and arrange for this conference; and I am sure all of you will agree with me that the result is a success.

I would also like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture for its nice hospitality, the various sponsors for their financial support and last but not least, the interpreters who worked very hard during the lengthy sessions of this Conference. I wish you a safe journey home. Thank you and Good bye. See you at the next conference on Global Trade in Aquaculture.

Global Trade Conference on Aquaculture

29–31 May 2007
Qingdao, China

This document contains the proceedings of the first Global Trade Conference on Aquaculture, held in Qingdao, China from 29 to 31 May 2007 and includes the full papers and abstracts of presentations. The conference was organized by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in cooperation with FISHINFONetwork and was hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture with the support of its Bureau of Fisheries and the Society of Fisheries. The Conference, organized in five sessions, examined the many facets of the aquaculture sector: on aquaculture's growing strengths, on current and future challenges, advantages and opportunities, a special focus on China, and a look at future developments for the aquaculture sector.

ISBN 978-92-5-105872-5 ISSN 1813-3940



TC/M/A1454E/1/11.07/1800