

Your Royal Highness, Chairman Holmefjord, Mayor Ottervik, Minister Nesvik, ministers, excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Congratulations on the 40-year anniversary of Aqua-Nor!

It is always a pleasure to come to Trondheim, particularly during the time of year when it takes over the role of a Global Capital of fish. In Iceland we used to call it Nidarós, in the old days when the town was the capital of the Norwegian North Atlantic Empire. A most interesting time in our history!

But we also today live in interesting times! Just look around us at international political affairs and global development! I need not describe. The interest these days however, as before is not least on the Oceans, on the various roles the Oceans have, their problems and the opportunities. In these still very much uncharted waters Norway is up front. Prime ministers Erna Solberg's High Level Panel on the Oceans is doing excellent work. The EAT/Lancet report certainly caught Global attention and now back to back with Aqua-Nor, Norway is hosting FAO's COFI subcommittee on aquaculture here in Trondheim. For that, I thank you on behalf of the FAO and its new Director General dr. Qu.

The thinking today is very much on healthy diets and sustainable food systems, and how this concept, affects the present environmental challenges that the World faces. The UN Secretary General's proposal for a UN summit on this topic in 2021 is indicative of its potential importance.

It is very interesting to see, the various healthy and balanced diets, from the four corners of the world, and what most of them have in common. More whole grain, vegetables, fruits and pulses but also more fish as a source of quality protein and other essential nutrients. This is because of the inherent quality of fish and the low environmental footprint of most aquaculture systems. With capture fisheries being more or less stable at the best, here could be major possibilities to solve nutrition and food security problems and environmental problems as well as industry opportunities. If these solutions and opportunities however, are to be realised through greater aquaculture production there are challenges that need to be met and problems that need to be solved.

First aquaculture needs to reduce and eventually eliminate its reliance on terrestrial agriculture for a large part of its feed. The general state of terrestrial soils is poor and these are essentially resources that can be used to feed humans beings. Instead, we need to design systems that utilise sunlight for primary production in the upper plankton layers of the Oceans through production of feeds through phytoplankton, micro- and macro-algae, zooplankton and marine bacteria. There we have huge possibilities with the Oceans and fresh water bodies covering over two thirds of the Globe.

Secondly, we need to move down the marine food pyramid, for energy efficiency, and come closer to the terrestrial food pyramid in this respect and concentrate more on low-input systems and herbivorous species. Even non-fed systems that provide additional environmental services, in favour of our present preference for top carnivorous, wolf eaters, at the top of the pyramid. If we do these two things, we will have come a long way towards meeting the third challenge of reducing the practice of feeding fish to fish, and not use high quality protein to produce high quality protein.

These are not easy things to do but looking back and observing our innovations and the advances we have made, even just in my lifetime, and I am not particularly old yet, I am sure we can do it. In fact, I am sure we will, over the next few days here at Aqua-Nor, see a number of innovative examples showing that we are already moving in this direction. There is however, more urgency than before. More people

are hungry in this world today than just a few years ago and dreaded environmental changes are becoming all too obvious.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, we have important work to do, over the next few days here in Trondheim, and beyond. We need to tackle them jointly as a world community but I hope, in fact I am sure, that we can as in the past rely on Norway to be up there at the front in the spirit of Norway's High Level Panel on the Oceans and in the spirit of Akvator's scientific and technological advances.