



Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

28 January 2021

*The Secretariat, COFI
The Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations*

Subject: NACA comments on WCP agenda item 6

The Secretariat,

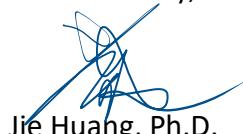
NACA appreciates the efforts and achievements made by the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI:FT). The decisions and recommendations in the report and relevant FAO publications and statistic data provided by COFI:FT play a vital role in the global and regional understandings of the significance of fisheries and aquaculture and their value chains to regional economies and societies.

We believe that fish trade is critically important to aquaculture as the ultimate stage of value realization. The most direct impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries sectors is the fish trade sector in the value chain. Therefore, NACA timely analysed the pandemic's impact on the value chain and put forward corresponding countermeasures in responding to the impact of COVID-19 on the aquaculture sector in the region. We advocate that our actions should not only be settled on the passive response strategies of the impact on the value chain, but also the active value of fish products for COVID-19 control. Our data analysis has revealed that there is indeed a positive effect of fish consumption on human resistance to COVID-19. Therefore, we propose that the fisheries sectors need to appeal to the importance of fish for human health to reach more people through the benefits of fish consumption, including resistance to COVID-19. This proposal will actively mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the value chain of fisheries and aquaculture. NACA hope to work with the FAO and other partners to promote this initiative.

In addition, the culture concept in fisheries or so-called aquaesthetics is another initiative that we hope to initiate for the extension of the value chain. We believe that fisheries and aquaculture value chains need to be deeply integrated with the general public to make the public fully aware of the beauty of fish production and products. The general public's interest and participation in building fishery or aquaculture communities and enjoying aquaesthetics will be an important approach to extend the value chain.

Furthermore, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement signed by 15 Asia-Pacific countries last November could open up new opportunities for fish trade in the Asia-Pacific region and provide new chances for global fish trade by profoundly changing the trade in the world's largest fisheries and aquaculture region. NACA recommends that Members and the FAO take the consideration to be engaged in the opportunities in fish trade and the value chain brought by the agreement and study on trends in fisheries and aquaculture in terms of policies, industries, and stakeholders, etc. NACA would be willing to participate in the collaboration on this topic actively.

Yours faithfully,



Jie Huang, Ph.D.
Director General

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)