



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# director-general's bulletin

DATE: 22 December 2015

No. 2015/46

## MARGARITA LIZÁRRAGA MEDAL AWARD 2016-2017

At its Twenty-ninth session in November 1997, the FAO Conference decided, by Resolution 18/97, that a "Margarita Lizárraga Medal" be awarded biennially by the Director-General, upon the proposal of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of FAO. The Award pays tribute to Ms Margarita Lizárraga, a Mexican national and an officer in the Fisheries Department at the time of her passing away in 1997, for her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, for her great dedication to FAO and for her strong commitment towards fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries, as well as for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Nominations are therefore now invited for the Margarita Lizárraga Medal Award for the biennium 2016-2017.

The general terms and conditions of the Award are as follows:

### Nature of the recognition:

The Award will be in the form of a commemorative metallic medal, which will be inscribed with the name of the person or organization selected, as well as a scroll describing the achievements of the recipient. In addition, a round trip fare to Rome and Daily Subsistence Allowance, at approved UN rates, will be paid to the Award recipient.

### Eligibility:

Any person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

### Basic criteria:

The basic criteria, ranked by order of importance, for the selection process, as established in 1999 by the Selection Committee and applied since then, are:

- an outstanding, practical hands-on contribution to the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- the output should be tangible;
- the activity should be a sustained effort, and not a one-off initiative; and
- the output should have the potential for a snowball or catalytic effect.

Submission of nominations:

Proposals for nominations should be submitted by 31 May 2016. A person or organization may propose a person or organization that has diligently applied the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Submissions must be made on the specific electronic nomination form, which can be obtained from the FAO Website (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/code/margarita-lizarraga/en>), to the Secretary of the Committee on Fisheries.

Margarita Lizárraga Medal Award Screening Committee:

An *ad hoc* Screening Committee chaired by the Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, the Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division, as well as the Legal Counsel, with the Secretary of the Committee on Fisheries acting as Secretary, will review the list of nominations submitted to it by the Secretary, and establish a short-list of three nominations for the Award, including an assessment of such nominations.

Margarita Lizárraga Medal Award Selection Committee:

The Award winner will be chosen by a Committee consisting of the members of the bureau of the Committee on Fisheries (i.e. the Chairperson, the first Vice-Chairperson and the five other Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee), the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and the Director-General, acting as Chairman of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will meet during the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries in July 2016. At that sitting, the Selection Committee will make its choice on the basis of the list of candidates, including the respective assessments, drawn up by the Screening Committee.

Final Selection:

The Council will propose to the Director-General the name of the person or organization to whom the Award should be conferred.

Conferral of Award:

The Award for 2016-2017 will be presented by the Director-General at an award ceremony to be held before 31 December 2017.

**José Graziano da Silva**  
Director-General

## **WINNERS OF THE MARGARITA LIZÁRRAGA MEDAL**

### **2015**

#### **The Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group**

The SIF Working Group was selected in recognition of an excellent African example of what can be achieved to stop illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by demonstrating that much can be accomplished with relatively limited resources through good networking, the sharing of information, regional and international cooperation, and a strong commitment to stop IUU fishing. Its achievement is considered as a model for similar initiatives and will hopefully have a catalytic effect on other regions. The contribution of SIF to the application of the Code of Conduct is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic.

### **2013**

#### **La Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA)**

OSPESCA was selected with recognition of its significant contribution to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in the Central American countries and considered a model intergovernmental organization, emulated in other regions for the catalytic effect of its achievements. The contribution of OSPESCA to the application of the Code has been outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic for other regions to follow.

### **2011**

#### **Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)**

The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) was selected with recognition of its significant contribution to sustainable aquaculture development in the Asia and Pacific Region. NACA serves as a cohesive intergovernmental forum for the formulation of regional policies as well as cooperation and coordination in aquaculture research, development and training. In particular NACA has noteworthy achievements in the areas of environment and aquatic animal health, support to small-scale fish farming, promotion of better management practices (BMPs) and aquaculture certification. The NACA model as an intergovernmental organization and a regional aquaculture network has been and is being emulated in other region as a catalytic effect of the achievement. The contribution of NACA to application of the Code is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic for other regions to follow.

### **2009**

#### **Honourable Abraham Iyambo, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia**

Dr Iyambo is the first individual to be awarded the medal, while the five earlier winners since 1999 were organizations. He was selected in recognition of his distinguished leadership at the national, regional and international levels in relation to the application of the Code. This he achieved through implementation of responsible fisheries science, policies and management as well as through substantive contribution to the negotiations leading to the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, to the establishment of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BCLME), the Benguela-Environment-Fisheries-Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT) and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

## **2007**

### **Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)**

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was selected as the recipient of the Award for the biennium 2006-2007. The SEAFDEC is an intergovernmental organization with headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, which was established in 1967 with the mandate to promote fisheries development in Southeast Asia. SEAFDEC has been devoted to the regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recently completed its process with publication of four Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia relating to Fishing Operations, Aquaculture, Fisheries Management and Post-harvest Practices and Trade. It also prepared Supplementary Guidelines on Co-management. With the process of regionalization and Regional Guidelines as outcomes, SEAFDEC has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and its achievement is an outstanding and practical hands-on contribution to the application of the Code.

## **2005**

### **The Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)**

The Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was selected as the recipient of the Award for the biennium 2004-2005. The AIDCP is an international agreement whose objective is to reduce dolphin mortality in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and to ensure the sustainability of tuna stocks and associated species in the ecosystem. The Parties to the Agreement are Bolivia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the United States, Vanuatu and Venezuela. The AIDCP has been an unqualified success and has diligently applied the relevant principles set forth in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in particular those aspects relating to the precautionary approach and the utilization of fishing gear and techniques which minimize the catch of non-target species and allowed for the enormous reduction in dolphin mortality that was achieved. AIDCP was also commended for its active involvement with the fishing industry and environmental non-governmental organizations, which constituted a successful and exemplary interaction among the various stakeholders.

## **2003**

### **The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)**

The Margarita Lizárraga Medal for 2002-2003 was presented by the Director-General of FAO to the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) based in India, on 29 November 2003, during the Thirty-second Session of FAO Conference. ICSF is an International NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers all over the world. The medal was presented to ICSF in recognition of its comprehensive, sustainable and catalytic initiatives in support of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, through workshops, outreach and advocacy activities, as well as by mobilizing grassroots support and enhancing human capacity building, particularly in developing countries.

## **2001**

### **The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat**

The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat was selected for its unprecedented grassroots approach to the development of a national Code of Conduct based on the FAO Code of Conduct, which is resulting in responsible fisheries management and new partnerships between industry and the Government in the fisheries sector.

**1999**

**National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO) of Sri Lanka**

NAFSO was selected for its outstanding and practical initiative in promoting and disseminating the Code. In particular, this NGO has taken very practical steps to translate the Code into the Sinhala language, to print it and distribute it. In addition, to ensure the application of the Code, NAFSO organized a series of meetings in fishing communities thereby promoting a better understanding of various aspects of the Code among poor, small scale fishing communities. Without this work, it is highly likely that these largely illiterate fishing communities would not have had access to the Code.