

WEIGHING UP THE FUTURE

With established organizations in the USA, Australia and Mexico there has been a determined focus on ensuring that all are part of a family. They need to operate and meet all regulations in their established countries, but also come together and share resources.

By: Roy D. Palmer *

To that end SCALES International Limited has been established enabling Aquaculture without Frontiers (USA/Australia/Latin America) to be part of a much larger footprint. The need to responsibly share common resources and goals globally is essential.

Appreciating that many similar organizations already exist, the opportunity to collaborate and engage with them, especially in countries where AwF does not operate, and connect them with aquaculture and/or with our expertise is an opportunity not to be wasted.

Collaboration is the key in moving forward, and sharing information, knowledge and resources is vital. As a group we are stronger. We can put projects together and engage in funding initiatives to maximize our joint expertise and to have other countries engaged in the SCALES network creates many advantages.

SCALES International Limited operates globally but it has been established in NSW, Australia as a new Environmental Not for Profit organization – a company limited by guarantee not having share capital (ACN 634 399 429). This public company is established for beneficial society with its sole objective as an Environmental Organization.



Mission

SCALES will create partnerships throughout the developing aquatic world with other like-minded organizations that see benefit in joining forces, creating collective knowledge and collaborating on projects and programs that connect to the UN Sustainable Development Goals – addressing the global challenges, especially including those related to poverty, inequality, gender, climate, environmental degradation, education, prosperity, and peace and justice.

One of the most exciting aspects to this is the ability to form partnerships to build information and knowledge about many countries and their specific needs and assist in creation of plans and projects. SCALES will promote our partners and sponsors in any relevant activities they engage and share their goals and news throughout our media platforms. Partnership will not entail any complicated process - a form is provided on the new website (<http://scalesalliance.com/>) and there are no membership fees currently.

MatureDevelopment from The Hague, Netherlands have become the first partner in SCALES. Paul van der Heijden, who became AwF's EU Ambassador in 2018, is the founder of this exciting organization. Paul shares strong beliefs in profitability of sustainable business and due to his personal development, he retreated from this industry and initiated MatureDevelopment in 2000. With MatureDevelopment he has created a company with a strong emphasis on sustainable and system innovation; 'innovative innovation'. Paul is committed in understanding that we cannot take our knowledge with us so is constantly pushing buttons that see his younger people engaged.

All our work is connected to relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG's) as that is the global agenda which drives activities. Additionally, we are working



with the Association of International Seafood Professionals on making educational tools and resources available. The goal is online 24 hours per day and in many languages.

The SCALES Foundation is being created, a special FUND, which enables people, companies, organizations, etc. to engage in aquatic food chain development through SCALES. This may be carbon related in respect of our concepts of coastal development particularly in the re-establishment of mangroves and sea grasses, but it may be supply related to other aquaculture or seafood activity.

There will be lots of networking and some planned Meetings & Events.

People can communicate through our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/scalesalliance/> and our Twitter @ScalesGlobal. Our first major event will be the 1st Global Rural Aquaculture Conference to be held 19-20 May 2020 in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Rural Aquaculture offers an opportunity in the search for Food Security, however, one of the main challenges is in the increase in production and through chain processes. The objective is to increase the availability of food and everything that involves its production and commercialization through dedicated value chains, generating positive economic



outcomes in places that are normally of high and very high marginality. The delegates at the conference will discuss why it is necessary to promote crops with low production costs and identify the regions where they can be carried out. Where the producers who currently carry out the activity have opportunities to increase their production and have the means to start profitable and sustainable economic cycles will be additional subjects. SCALES will offer groups the partnership opportunity which assists them with online education. Working in collaboration and understanding the learning needs will help build resilient aquaculture initiatives.

Katherine Hawes, Chair, Aquaculture without Frontiers (Australia) Limited, said "We were looking for a name that connected what we do with aquaculture and the concept of bringing people together to make the activities stronger. Of course, the main reason that a fish has scales is

to provide external protection to its body and provide flexibility. They are hardy, slippery and tough making them excellent protection for the environments that fish live in. Scales, like a suit of armour, enable for fish to be flexible. In today's environment all our businesses and associations need to have such connection in order to become sustainable. That gave us the idea."

Katherine added "SCALES is our general name, but it could be referred to as an acronym for Sustainable Community for Aquaculture Learning, Education & Skills (SCALES).

SCALES – taking the letters of SCALES we have:


Sustainable (sustaining, strengthening and supporting physically or mentally. Covering species, population, community, ecosystem and biosphere).

Community (condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interests in common).

Aquaculture (aquatics as food chain culture – covering fishing and aquaculture in all aspects of the aquatic food chain).

Learning (education, training, technical development, improvement of systems, transfer of knowledge).

Education (ensures empowerment, environment and economic - uplifting people, supporting equality including gender and ecosystems).

Skills (brings security -food security and nutrition; security of rights; ensuring long-term welfare)." 

*Roy D. Palmer, Executive Director Aquaculture without frontiers.
For background on our strictly volunteer charity organization please visit our website www.aquaculturewithout-frontiers.org which has all the information about our history, projects and who is on our Boards. AwF has established organizations in Australia (Charity) and Mexico (NGO), but the mainstay is our organization incorporated in California #2671553 exempt from State and Federal taxes as a US501(c)(3) public charity. We run several networks on social media - School/Students; Women/Gender; Global Indigenous; Aquaponics; Aquarium Fish, Latin America and recently Small Island Development States.