

**27 April 2005**

**Dear AwF friend,**

**I hope that you will find the following news items, which have been extracted from our website, interesting:**

On 20 April 2005, the Board of the USAS (US Aquaculture Society - a Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society) unanimously passed a resolution granting US\$ 1,000 to AwF. In writing to AwF Chairman Michael New with this news, USAS President Jeff Hinshaw wrote "we heartily applaud your efforts in this endeavor". AwF is very grateful to the USAS for this generous support.

The trustees are proud to announce that Professor M.S. Swaminathan has graciously agreed to become a Patron of AwF. Professor Swaminathan is a very distinguished international scientist, whose attributes are too numerous to list here (please see the MSSRF website: [www.mssrf.org](http://www.mssrf.org)). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (UK) in 1973 and is the holder of 45 honorary doctorates. Among his many full-time and honorary appointments, he has been Vice Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Director General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); Independent Chairman, FAO Council; Chairman, UN Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development; and Honorary Vice-President, World Wild Life Fund International. Currently he is the Chairman of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and holds the UNESCO Chair in Ecotechnology. MSSRF is an organisation that was registered in 1988 to impart a pro-nature, pro-poor and pro-women orientation to a job-led economic growth strategy in rural areas through harnessing science and technology for environmentally sustainable and socially equitable development. MSSRF is doing research in the following five areas: coastal systems research; biodiversity and biotechnology; eco-technology and sustainable agriculture; reaching the unreached; and education, communication, training and capacity building. AwF warmly welcomes Professor Swaminathan as a Patron and is most grateful for his support.

AwF has been able to secure funds to complete a pilot project for the rehabilitation of small-holder tambaks (coastal aquaculture ponds) in three villages in Pidie District, Aceh Province, Indonesia. US\$ 18,812 has been granted to this project by AwF, using part of the generous donation from YSI Inc. to the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) Tsunami Relief Fund. The grant will be disbursed by WAS and monitored by AwF. The remaining US\$ 10,000 has been supplied from another source. The importance of aquaculture in this area can be demonstrated by the following facts: (1) Before the tsunami of the 26th December 2004, the farming of fish and shrimp in tambaks in Aceh produced around 10,000 t of shrimp and 6,000 t of fish from over 45,000 ha of ponds. (2) Preliminary assessments conducted in early 2005 indicated that over 50,000 people depended directly for employment on the aquaculture sector. It has been estimated that over 10,000 ha of these tambak ponds were severely damaged or destroyed in the tsunami; lower levels of damage were caused to 25,000 ha of tambak ponds; and over 600 km of water

supply canals were disrupted. The primary objective of the project is to support farmers to clean up the tertiary canals and to restore water supply to 392 ha of tambaks for 426 farming households in three villages (Jemerang, Pasi Lhok, Lancang) in the Pidie District. The project comprises a cash for work contract, administered by the Ujung Batee Regional Brackishwater Aquaculture Development Centre of the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), covering the following items: (1) Provide cash for the daily work of farmers and villagers. The workers are selected by the tambak farmers association chief of the sub-district (who is village chief of Pasi Lhok). The village chief organises work schedules to share the work among villagers who want to work (including tambak farmers, labourers and others who need work in the village). (2) Provide tools (lham, baskets, bags for putting sand from the canals, strong string). (3) Provide two water gates for the public canals for each village (being managed by the local tambak farmer association). AwF is very grateful to Agus Budhiman and Michael Phillips, who identified this pilot project and drew up the proposal. Staff of the Ujung Batee Regional Brackishwater Aquaculture Development Centre will report on the progress of the project, and its final outcome to the Directorate General of Aquaculture, who will report to AwF. AwF will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation for the WAS Tsunami Relief Fund and YSI Inc. Further news about this project will be posted on this website later. AwF hopes to secure funding for further projects to assist in the rehabilitation of small-scale aquaculture in this area. More news to follow!

Two AwF volunteers are providing technical assistance for a project in Bandah Aceh, Indonesia. Dallas Alston (from Puerto Rico) has already provided substantial technical information and Kevin Fitzsimmons (from Arizona) expects to visit the site in mid-May to provide further technical assistance. The project, which is being operated by a group from Professionals International, comprises rehabilitation work for over 100 shrimp farming families affected by the tsunami disaster. This represented a milestone in the history of AwF, since this was the very first time that AwF has been able to provide volunteers to give practical assistance to small-scale aquafarmers. More news about this later!

So far, in addition to those that are already AwF directors or foundation group members, nearly 70 volunteers have registered in the AwF database.

AwF volunteers are ready to provide technical expertise to assist in the alleviation of poverty in developing or transition countries through small-scale aquaculture. So far the funds available to us for this purpose are very limited. Despite this fact, we would like to solicit proposals for limited support. If you (or your existing project) could use the short-term services of an AwF volunteer to assist small-scale aquaculture in your area, please make an initial contact with Michael New (Michael\_New@compuserve.com), providing brief initial details of your request. Please note that we are at present unable to consider the provision of volunteer assistance costing more than US\$2,000-3,000. We are interested in collaborating with existing international NGOs working in poverty alleviation that wish to extend their existing aquaculture activities or to broaden their current aid portfolio.

During its January 2005 meeting, the Board of the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) unanimously voted to establish a fund for an "EAS YOUNG PERSON VOLUNTEER" and donated an initial Euro 3,000 to AwF for this purpose. It is envisaged that EAS YOUNG

PERSON VOLUNTEERS will be members of EAS, under the age of 30 and, normally, graduate students. AwF is extremely grateful to EAS for proposing the facilitation of student participation in the work of AwF, and for its generous donation.

Following a presentation by the AwF Chairman in New Orleans during the recent conference of the US Aquaculture Society in January 2005, the members of the American Fisheries Society (Fish Culture Section) unanimously agreed to donate US\$ 1,000 to AwF. In doing so, the AFS (FCS) expressed very strong support for the principles of AwF. Following the wish of AFS to develop a continuing relationship with AwF, AFS (FCS) will be invited to nominate a member of the AwF Technical Advisory Group. AwF expresses its deep gratitude to AFS for this encouraging support.

**Kind regards,**

**Michael**

Michael New, OBE  
Chairman  
Aquaculture without Frontiers  
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President (2002-2004)  
Board Member (1998-2006)  
European Aquaculture Society  
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Board Member (1993-1998 & 2005-2008)  
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