

# AwF Newsletter

16 June 2006

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## Message from the AwF Chairman

It is about seven months since our last newsletter but there has been lots of action. Generally, we rely on you to consult our website occasionally to see that we are doing. Email messages like this one to our many friends and supporters are necessarily extremely rare because of our lack of home office staff.


We now have two on-going field projects in Bangladesh (with Caritas and the Voluntary Organization for Social Development) and our project in India (with St. Joseph's Bishramganj) has gone into its second phase. A larger project in Thailand is being planned (with World Vision). We are investigating opportunities for aquaculture in the Lake Naivasha area in Kenya. Two of our tsunami relief projects in Aceh, Indonesia are completed but several others are on-going or about to commence. Details of all of these activities are on our website, and news items about them are published there.

Our funds originally came mostly from the AwF Trustees, Directors and Foundation Members and their personal contacts, as well as various aquaculture associations. It is very encouraging for us to observe that a wider spectrum of donors is appearing now. For example, funds have been raised by the activities of groups of students in Canada, the USA and Europe. One of our volunteers is currently soliciting donors from aquaculture suppliers. The general public is also beginning to contribute; two examples are mentioned in the news items reprinted below - an art exhibition in France and (for the second year running) sponsored dragon boat racing in England. We are most grateful to all our donors and particularly to those who organise fund-raising events for AwF. In a global context the sums raised by each event may seem quite small (US\$ 500-3,000) but remembering that none of our projects in India and Bangladesh has cost more than US\$ 5,000 put this into context. We can do a great deal of good for really poor people with relatively small sums of money.

AwF is achieving an increasing amount of publicity. Website 'hits' are rising. Several papers were presented about the work of AwF during the joint EAS-WAS conference *AQUA 2006* in Florence, Italy in May. Another will be presented in *Australian Aquaculture 2006* (Adelaide, 27-30 August 2006). More are planned for *Aquaculture 2007* (San Antonio, Texas, 26 February - 2 March 2007). An article in the magazine *Global Aquaculture Advocate* is in press.

I apologise for the infrequency of this newsletter. I most sincerely thank you for your interest in our work and the support that you are giving to AwF.

Kind regards,



Michael New, OBE

Note: AwF will get a small donation (that costs you nothing) every time you use the internet search engine [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com) if you make Aquaculture without Frontiers your nominated charity.

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The following material has been extracted from our website  
[www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org](http://www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org)

You are welcome to reproduce any of this material, or anything else copied from our website, if you print an acknowledgement to AwF.

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## AwF-VOSD PROJECT IN BANGLADESH

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35 women are being trained in the AwF-VOSD small-scale cage culture project in the Nalcity upzilla of Jhalkathi district and the Faridganj upzilla of Chandpur district in a programme designed to encourage the culture of monosex tilapia in cages, with low-cost feeding, to provide family food and income. The following photographs provided by VOSD (Voluntary Organization for Social Development) Director of Fisheries Tamanna Khatun show some of the current project activities.



*Figure 1. Participatory trainees with Dr. M. Niamul Naser and Tamanna Khatun (in yellow) at the VOSD Office*



*Figure 2. Trainees in Nalcity*



*Figure 3. Joining split bamboo to make cage directed by Tamanna Khatun*



*Figure 4. Cage frame construction from split bamboo*



*Figure 5. Cage frame construction from split bamboo*



*Figure 6. Cutting netting for cage construction*



*Figure 7. Placing the feeding tray in a cage*





*Figure 8. Placing the cage in the pond*



*Figure 9. A simple and cheap floating cage*



*Figure 10. Technical discussion session*



*Figure 11. Making fish feed by hand*

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## ART EXPO IN MONTPELLIER RAISES FUNDS FOR AwF

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Denis Lacroix (AwF Foundation Member) most kindly organized an exhibition of professional and amateur art in a chateau in Montpellier, France in May to raise funds for AwF. We wish to thank him most sincerely for his initiative; our gratitude goes also to his friends and colleagues for their enthusiasm and support for AwF. This event raised €800 for our work. We are pleased to provide a report of the event (in French - see website), together with the following photographs.



*Figure 12. The organiser of the Expo, Denis Lacroix, and Nicole Boulet*



*Figure 13. Château Les Mazes (the site of the exposition)*



*Figure 14. General view of the exposition*



*Figure 15. Another general view of the exposition*



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## **AwF-WORLD VISION THAILAND PROJECT BEING PLANNED**

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The following news has been received from AwF trustee Geoff Allan.....

The elements of this project are coming together. We have agreement from World Vision Thailand and World Vision Australia (regional office); in principle support from the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Thailand, a tilapia training provider (Zamon Akhtaruzzaman from Bangladesh has agreed to be involved on a voluntary AwF basis), and a fish feeding and nutrition training provider (Geoff Allan, using the Crawford fund training course as background material).

Final details are being worked out with World Vision and DOF Thailand (location for training courses, selection of people and timing).

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## **INDIA: PHOTOS FROM AwF BISHRAMGANJ PROJECTS**

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As we close the first phase of our project in Tripura and move into the second we have received the following photographs from AwF Volunteer M.C. Nandeesh. The pictures and their captions tell their own story.....



*Figure 16. The dry season is the best time for digging ponds - no JCBs in small-scale aquaculture!*



*Figure 17. Children are showing a great interest in fish culture; it's an attractive activity*



*Figure 18. Rice is an important cultivated crop; women are heavily involved in post-harvest activities*



*Figure 19. Pineapple is also a major fruit crop in the region and its cultivation is a major activity for women*



**Figure 20. The integration of horticulture and fish culture is increasing**



**Figure 21. Pesticide usage for horticultural crops is also increasing; AwF will try to minimize this in phase 2**



**Figure 22. Prior to harvesting by net, this farmer is giving feed to attract the fish to one side of the pond**





*Figure 23. While father and sons are catching fish, mother prepares a fish for cooking*



**Figure 24. Women catch fish as well as cooking those harvested**



*Figure 25. Farmers have been using pond-grown fish for family consumption*



*Figure 26. Young people are finding aquaculture an income-generating activity*





*Figure 27. A farmer proudly displays a catla (one of the Indian major carps) harvested from his pond*



*Figure 28. The launch of the second phase of the AwF-St. Xavier's Bishramganj project, 20 April 2006*

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## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons, a Past-President of the World Aquaculture Society, has kindly agreed to accept a nomination as a new Director of AwF (USA). This was confirmed at a meeting of the AwF (USA) board on 10 May 2006. Kevin has already been serving as an AwF volunteer in Indonesia and we are delighted to have him involved in the management of AwF. Welcome! We also welcome Sophie Varley, who was elected a new trustee of AwF (UK) at a meeting of the trustees in Firenze on 10 May 2006.

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## **AwF STUDENT VOLUNTEER STARTS WORK IN KENYA**

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Cyrus Mageria, a postgraduate student at the University of Wageningen, has been co-funded by Nutreco and AwF to conduct a study in Kenya to explore the potential for creating a hatchery to supply fish fry for aquaculture and restocking purposes in the Lake Naivasha area.

This work has been made possible by the partial use of some funds granted to AwF by the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) for AwF Student Volunteers. We hope that this particular work will provide an opportunity to launch a sensible approach to aquaculture development in a poor area of the world where it may make a difference and, at the same time, to invest in the Human Resources of local people.

We also hope that this will encourage other student volunteers to work with AwF. EAS has already committed further funds for this purpose.

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## **DRAGONS ROARED IN MARLOW ON 11 JUNE**

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Although the two sponsored dragon boat crews racing for AwF in Marlow, England yesterday did not do so well competitively as last year, the important thing for AwF is that preliminary figures indicate that they will have raised more funds for us than in a similar event in 2005. We will post more details and photos later; meanwhile, here are a couple of examples:



*Figure 29. One of the two AwF crews preparing.....*



*Figure 30. Winning the first heat.....*



*Figure 31. Though not on our volunteer aquaculture database, these people are great volunteers!*

AwF expresses sincere thanks to the 22 crew members and to all those kind people who sponsored them for AwF.

**End.....**