



The 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress

'Transdisciplinarity, Transformation and the Future of Small-Scale Fisheries'

22-26 October, 2018

Chiang Mai, Thailand

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We are pleased to announce the call for abstracts for the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (3WSFC), which will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 22-26 October 2018. The main theme for the congress is *'Transdisciplinarity and Transformation for the Future of Small-Scale Fisheries'*

Transdisciplinarity is a perspective that is most appropriate when dealing with the complex nature and characteristics associated with small-scale fisheries and where various ways of knowing matter. The diversity of small-scale fisheries suggests that policy and governance approaches must be sensitive to context, which is why a broad range of knowledge, including those of small-scale fisheries people, needs to be integrated. The congress will emphasize the role of transdisciplinarity in policy-making, capacity development, and research that aim at promoting sustainable future of small-scale fisheries.

Small-scale fisheries are however affected by countless changes taking place around the world on land and at sea. In many instances, social, policy and governance transformation has taken place as a response, although not all transformation is favourable to small-scale fisheries. Careful considerations are required to promote beneficial transformation and to avoid harmful ones. The congress will focus on efforts that help enhance understanding about transformation, reveal nuances and contribute to promoting transformation towards sustainable future of small-scale fisheries.

The congress is closely linked to the Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) partnership (toobigtoignore.net), a global research network aimed to elevate the profile of small-scale fisheries. It is opened to anyone interested in small-scale fisheries issues, including fishers, fisher organizations, community groups, policy makers, practitioners, managers, donors, students and researchers, who are keen to contribute to an interactive discussion about options and opportunities for a better future of the world small-scale fisheries.

By the end of 3WSFC, we hope to arrive at some visions for the future of small-scale fisheries - one that embodies intentionality and deliberation about what may be feasible for small-scale fisheries and that encourages innovation in all aspects. Discussions about how to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and what will it take to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to 'making fisheries sustainable,' is specifically encouraged.

Program

In order to facilitate interaction, information sharing, cross-fertilization of ideas and networking opportunities for congress participants, the congress will follow a dynamic format with activities organized around five theme days: science, community, policy, field, and action.

1. **Science Day.** This day is designated for participants to share their findings from small-scale fisheries research and showcase how local, traditional and scientific knowledge can be used as a driving force in decision-making and for making a real impact on the ground. Participants are encouraged to highlight innovative, transformative and transdisciplinary approaches in doing and communicating small-scale fisheries science.
2. **Community Day.** Small-scale fisheries communities play an imminent role in shaping the future for fisheries. This day will showcase work that helps enhance the understanding of small-scale fisheries communities and illuminate their importance. Participants are encouraged to present their experiences in community-based innovation and successful transformation.
3. **Policy Day.** The focus of this day is to address the challenges and opportunities to explore factors that may facilitate improved governance, enhanced legitimacy of formal and informal rules and regulations, and meaningful inclusion of various stakeholders groups in the decision-making process towards transformation of small-scale fisheries sector. Special attention will be given to the discussion about how to pursue principles in the SSF Guidelines and to achieve SDGs.
4. **Field Day.** This is the day when we will go and visit a small freshwater lake, Kwan Phayao, where traditional small-scale fishing can be found. The trip will include a quick stop at a hot spring (only enough time to boil eggs), a longer stop at a local market (enough time to sample local delicacies), and a chat with local fishers.
5. **Action Day.** This day is about moving forward and looking at ways to integrate knowledge and approaches discussed during the four previous days of the congress. The goal is to come up with a number of actions plans regarding what is needed to transform small-scale fisheries, from the perspective of innovation and transdisciplinarity.

Submissions

Abstracts can be submitted in three formats:

1. Individual papers
2. Team papers
3. Special sessions

1. Individual papers. Individual papers are for anyone interested in presenting work done in small-scale fisheries related to science, communities and/or policy. Be specific about the transdisciplinary aspect of your work and how it contributes to transformation and the future of small-scale fisheries. Papers can be presented in regular concurrent sessions (10-12 min per paper), as speed presentation (5 min per paper), e-poster presentation* or in a special 'pesca-kucha'^ session.

*E-poster sessions will be organized to enable presentation of papers in a poster format, but without having to print the poster. E-posters will be displayed on designated screens, with specific viewing time and presenters will be invited to give a brief presentation (2-3 min) about their posters, if they wish.

^Pesca-kucha presentation follows the format of the original [PechaKucha](#), which means each presenter will prepare 20 slides to show for 20 seconds each (a total of 6 minutes and 40 seconds for each talk). The format encourages presenters to showcase their work through images and storytelling, while putting less emphasis on text and graphics.

2. Team papers. For 'Team papers', we are inviting submissions from projects or organizations whose work focuses on various aspects of small-scale fisheries. These could also be teams based on innovative collaborations between or amongst scientists, policy or practitioners. These papers should speak to the work done by the project teams, and should showcase findings from more than one study location. A committee will select 4-5 'Team papers' submission for a special plenary session. Other accepted submissions will be presented as part of concurrent sessions.

3. Special sessions. For 'Special sessions', we are inviting submissions for sessions built around the main congress theme. Session organizers should ensure that the work in the session clearly speaks about the role of transdisciplinary perspective and transformations for achieving sustainable future of small-scale fisheries. 'Special sessions' will be presented as part of concurrent sessions (10-12 min per paper). Note that we may be able to accommodate some special sessions run in languages other than English. Please indicate that if you're planning to do that and confirm that you have 'whisperers' to translate the session into English for people who are interested in attending your session.

Important dates

The deadline for submission of individual papers, team papers, and special sessions is **February 15, 2018**. Notifications for accepted papers and sessions will be sent out by **April 15, 2018**. Extended abstracts will be required by **July 15, 2018**, for inclusion in the Congress Proceedings. Registration will be opened on **March 15, 2018**. Early registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Fishers and community participation

We will do our best to encourage fishers and community members to participate in the Congress. There will be a special plenary session for fishers to share knowledge and idea, as well as an opportunity to interact with other fishers from around the world. Although the official language of the conference is English, we will provide you with 'whisperers' to help you follow the presentations and the discussion. Please contact us at email if you are interested in attending. Some funding is available to support your participation.

We look forward to receiving your contribution and to welcoming you to 3WSFC in Chiang Mai in October 2018.

Ratana Chuenpagdee (Memorial University, Canada) and Kungwan Juntarashote (Emeritus Professor at the Faculty of Fisheries at Kasetsart University, Thailand), Congress Co-Chairs