

We are pleased to announce the call for papers for the **2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (2WSFC)**, which will be held in Mérida, Mexico on **21-25 September 2014**.

The first Congress held in 2010 in Bangkok was focused on 'Issues and Solutions'. For the 2WSFC, given the advancement in research and enhanced policy interests on small-scale fisheries, we can now concentrate on exploring '**OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**'. The unique nature and characteristics associated with small-scale fisheries call for different thinking about how the sector should be economically developed [**Theme 1: Economic Viability**]. The connectivity of small-scale fishing people to community wellbeing implies that livelihood options need to be broadened and explored, beyond fisheries into other sectors [**Theme 2: Livelihoods and wellbeing**]. While ecological impacts from fishing may not be avoidable, they can be reduced through sustainable fishing and stewardship. The role of small-scale fishing sector in promoting these practices needs to be understood [**Theme 3: Ecosystem stewardship**]. Further, other development in coasts and oceans adds pressure on resources that small-scale fishing people rely on, and in some cases, displace them altogether. Securing access and rights of small-scale fisheries to their fishing places and fishing livelihoods is an important condition for their sustainability [**Theme 4: Rights and access**]. Indeed, the 'human' rights-based approach to small-scale fisheries governance underlies the majority of passages in the FAO guidelines, which also call to our attention different consideration about institutional arrangements and principles suitable for small-scale fisheries. In this context, discussion about food security and food sovereignty is timely [**Theme 5: Food security and food sovereignty**]. All of the above link back to issues of governance. Deliberation about what governing system(s) for small-scale fisheries should look like and how to make it happen is therefore a key element in the discussion about this sector [**Theme 6: Governance and governability**]. Achieving sustainable future for small-scale fisheries depends, to a large extent, on our ability to assess and evaluate the state of fisheries. Thus, we will also invite presentations and discussion about assessment methods, monitoring and modeling systems that are most suitable for

small-scale fisheries [**Theme 7: Assessment and monitoring**].

In addition to research to explore options and opportunities for small-scale fisheries, we are aware of the current needs related to information and capacity development. Developing an information system that captures the key essence of small-scale fisheries and that allows us to assess and compare their values and importance is a major task that Too Big to Ignore (TBTI; toobigtoignore.net) partnership has taken on. We will have discussion about this at 2WSFC for feedback and collaboration mechanism for data collection, analysis and dissemination [**Workshop 1: Information system for small-scale fisheries**]. Finally on capacity development, building local capacity for research and governance requires thoughtful consideration



and planning about needs and mechanisms to develop training program and sustain the built capacity. Innovative thinking like those promoted in transdisciplinary research would be explored in the congress [**Workshop 2: Transdisciplinary training**

and capacity development]. Anyone with ideas and experience on this topic are invited to participate in this workshop.

The congress is closely linked to the Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) project (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. In addition to presentations, there will be fisher forum, policy panel, photo contest, movie night as well as a field trip to a fishing community.

Those interested in presenting their work are invited to submit an abstract at <http://2WSFC.wordpress.com>. The deadline for abstract submission is **March 15, 2014**. Notifications for accepted abstracts will be sent out by **April 15, 2014**. Extended abstracts will be required by **July 15, 2014**, for inclusion in the Congress Proceedings.

Registration will be opened on **March 1, 2014**. Early registration is encouraged as space is limited.

We look forward to receiving your contribution and to welcoming you to 2WSFC in Merida in September. For more information about the congress, please visit <http://2WSFC.wordpress.com> or send email to 2WSFC@mun.ca

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