MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday, December 4, 2008

Fisheries Group Pushes Forward Agenda on Women in Fisheries

The Southeast Asia Fish for Justice Network (SEAFish), in a three-day conference held at the Fortuna Hotel in Hanoi, announced its regional agenda on women in fisheries. Composed of artisanal fisher and non-government organizations from Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam, the network conducted discussions to analyse issues confronting women fishers and formulated an agenda and action plan that seeks to address problems in fisheries, community-based coastal resources management (CBCRM) and trade.

SEAFish Coordinator Arsenio Tanchuling said that the network “will work towards the elimination of all inequality and discrimination against women in access to, control over and benefit from fishery and coastal resources, and shall demand accountability from governments in upholding women’s rights including reproductive rights.”

In aquaculture, Mr. Tanchuling stated that SEAFish shall “push for the realization of property rights for women fishers, and work against socio-economic dislocation and ecological destruction brought about by industrial aquaculture.” The network vows to forcefully advocate against the further expansion of industrial aquaculture in the region, and will build linkages across the different countries and among different organizations to achieve this goal.
In fisheries trade the network will “work towards the development and strengthening of local markets for the benefit of poor women and men in fishing and coastal communities.”

He further revealed that “SEAFish will be implementing an action plan to advance this agenda in the region that shall include in-depth analyses of the situation of women fishers, measures to strengthen women fisher organizations including their capacity to engage in resource management and sustainable livelihoods, and advocacy for policies that will address their needs and interests.”

**Round-table meeting of women in the fisheries sector**

Venue: Fortuna Hotel, 6B Lang Ha Street, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam  
Date: December 5 in Hanoi  
Time: 8h30 – 11h30

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