ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "ASIAN PACIFIC AQUA CULTURE 2019" ORGANISED BY TAMIL NADU DR. J. JAYALALITHAA FISHERIES UNIVERSITY AND WORLD AQUACULTURE SOCIETY – ASIAN PACIFIC AQUACULTURE AT CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE, CHENNAI ON 19.06.2019 AT 9.30 A.M

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. D. Jayakumar,
Minister for Fisheries and Personnel and
Administrative Reforms

Dr. K. Gopal, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary,
Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

Prof. S. Felix,
Vice-Chancellor,
Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University

Dr. Farshad Shishehchian,
International Co-Chair
Asian Pacific Aquaculture 2019

Dr. J.K.Jena,
Deputy Director General (Fisheries)

Thiru. Graham C. Mair,
Senior Aquaculture Officer
Food and Agriculture Organisation, Italy

Distinguished Invitees
Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great happiness to be here today at the inaugural function of this international conference on Aquaculture jointly organised by Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha Fisheries University in collaboration with the World Aqua Culture Society.

The Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, the first University in Asia exclusively established for Fisheries and Aquaculture was started in the year 2012 by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,

Dr. J. Jayalalithaa with the vision of "Harnessing the Science of Fisheries for Food, Nutrition and Livelihood".

The positive role played by the University in the transfer of technology has been recognized by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad which has therefore given the status of a partner in skill development and dissemination of technology to the University.

The World Aquaculture Society (WAS) which has its head quarters in USA was founded in 1969 as the World Mariculture Society. The WAS has over the years expanded all over the globe with chapters exclusively devoted to Japan, Korea, Latin American and Caribbean region and the Asian-Pacific region besides the United States of America. The Asian Pacific Chapter (APC) by organizing this conference has demonstrated its deep commitment to excellence in science, technology, education, and information exchange in the field of fisheries which in turn will contribute to the progressive and sustainable development of aquaculture throughout the world.

Two books related to the World Aqua culture society the Asian Pacific Aquaculture Program book and the Asian Pacific Aquaculture Abstract book have been released today and I am sure, readers will find them to be useful.

The historical scenario of fisheries in India reveals a paradigm shift from marine dominated fisheries to a situation today wherein inland fisheries has emerged as a major contributor to the overall fish production in the country.

The annual fisheries and aquaculture production in India is about 12 million metric tonnes. The country now enjoys the second position in the world after China with regard to fisheries and aquaculture production.

Inland fisheries presently has a share of 66.81% in the total fish production of the country. Consequently, Freshwater aquaculture which

had a share of only 34 percent in inland fisheries in mid-1980s has gone up to about 80 percent in recent years. Prawn farming has grown considerably in the last few decades and the book on shrimp farming which I have released today deals with the systems and advanced management practices with regard to the shrimp industry and is sure to serve as a guiding light for entrepreneurs and exporters.

The theme of today's conference "Aquaculture for Health, Wealth and Happiness" has been aptly named in line with the current trends.

Farming of fish is the most common form of aquaculture. It involves raising fish commercially usually for food.

Commercial shrimp farming began in the 1970s, and production grew steeply thereafter. About 75% of farmed shrimp is produced in Asia. Just two species of shrimp, the Pacific white shrimp and the giant tiger prawn, account for about 80% of all farmed shrimp.

In the Mediterranean, young bluefin tuna are netted at sea and towed slowly towards the shore. They are then interned in offshore pens (sometimes made from floating HDPE pipe) where they are further grown for the market. In 2009, researchers in Australia managed for the first time to coax southern bluefin tuna to breed in landlocked tanks. Southern bluefin tuna are also caught in the wild and fattened in grow-out sea cages in southern Spencer Gulf, South Australia.

A similar process is used in salmon-farming. Juveniles are taken from hatcheries and a variety of methods are used to aid them in their maturation. Salmon can also be grown using a cage system. This is done by having netted cages, preferably in open water that has a strong flow, and feeding the salmon a special food mixture that aids their growth. This process allows for year-round growth of the fish and thus a higher harvest. An additional method, known as sea ranching, has also been used in the industry.

Some forms of aquaculture are observed to be very beneficial for the eco-system. Shellfish aquaculture adds substantial filter feeding capacity to an environment which can significantly improve water quality. A single oyster can filter 15 gallons of water a day, removing microscopic algal cells. By removing these cells, shellfish are removing nitrogen and other nutrients from the system and either retaining it or releasing it as waste which sinks to the bottom. By harvesting these shellfish the nitrogen they retained is completely removed from the system. Raising and harvesting kelp and other macroalgae directly remove nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, thus providing relief to eutrophic, conditions known for their low dissolved oxygen which can decimate species diversity and abundance of marine life. Removing algal cells from the water also increase light penetration, allowing plants such as eelgrass to reestablish themselves and further increase oxygen levels.

These and many such issues will be discussed at the technical conference in which about 1000 scientific papers are going to be presented.

Scientists and scholars will be, thereby, sharing their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of farmers and entrepreneurs. There will also be a Farmers' Meet exclusively organized with the support of National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.

Another major attraction of today's event is the mega trade show in which companies and firms from all over the world are exhibiting their products and services. It brings together the stakeholders under one roof and facilitates a beneficial interaction for optimal results.

The event has been most appropriately been staged at Chennai. Tamil Nadu which has the 2nd longest coastline among the states of India houses more than 10 lakh fishermen. The state has taken a

number of steps to promote both marine and inland fisheries and I am sure that with the assistance of the organisers of today's function many more innovative suggestions will be available for implementation so as to promote the welfare of the fishermen of the state.

I wish the Asian Pacific Aquaculture 2019 all success and wish to assure all of you here that the State will continue to take a proactive lead for the development of fisheries and aquaculture.

Nandri Vanakkam….

Jai Tamil Nadu….

Jai Hind…