



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

Inside This Issue:

1. Introduction of WFFP

3

2. GA-5 of World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) at Karachi

3

3. Buddhist monks, families stage protest for release of fishers.

8

4. Small scale fisheries workshops

8

5. World Fisheries Day Observed

11

6. Citizen's Statement on Koodankulam

13



World Forum of Fisher People

Volume-1, Issue-1

February, 2012



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

Editorial Note



On behalf WFFP I take opportunity to present the first edition of E.News letter that is one of the step towards the institutionalization of WFFP.

I feel proud that all the representatives groups of fishers in different countries are engaged to conduct regional and national workshops in their respective areas to compile recommendations as per the guidelines of FAO to form a Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries, which will be voluntary in nature, address both inland and marine fisheries and focus on the needs of developing countries. In fact it is painstaking job all the friends, representing small scale fishers are doing. This effort can lead to our achievements to protect our resources, which are the assets bestowed upon us by the nature and it is our responsibility to hand over the same to our future generations.

It is long time since we gathered in Karachi, Pakistan to hold WFFP GA5th sessions, which the host organization PFF arranged and gave us a place to share the moments and had taken important decisions. We here have assigned a task to some people to design website for the WFFP, which will be our common platform to disseminate information quickly. This has been delayed but we should be hopeful to see it in a just right design, portraying our mission, goals, achievements and sharing updates of our activities round the globe.

I am again proud to share to all that PFF on its own has completed four regional workshops, two each for fishers deriving their livelihoods from marine and inland waters. PFF is stepping ahead to Pakistan's Punjab province, the hardest field to mobilize fishers living there. Punjab is the home to all the mega water projects, which annoyed the people and activists of all the provinces of the country (Pakistan). Influential contractors, who occupied natural waters in Punjab have killed two fishers, originally belonged to Sindh province. PFF took the matter and is still struggling to unite the scattered community through a fair strategy to protect their lives and livelihoods.

Fishers in Pakistan have more difficulties to face but we are optimistic that struggling on the stronger platform of WFFP we will achieve the common goals.

This is the first issue of WFFP, bringing little later because I know that you all could be busy in your respective countries and need more time to share your reports and updates. We hope you will be fine there and will share your activities timely so we could be able to compile it and make the things straight.

Regards

Mohammed Ali Shah
Secretary General



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

1. Introduction of WFFP

World Forum of the Fisher People (WFFP) is a registered organization and



its International Secretariat is situated at France while the Coordinating Secretariat is at No.10, Malwatta Road, Negombo, Sri Lanka. There are 35 member organizations; those are membership based national organizations, networks or trade unions representing around 1 million small scales, artisanal Fisherfolk in 30 countries of the 5 continents.

WFFP was founded in New Delhi in 1997 and the 2nd constituent assembly was held in Loctudy, France in 2000, 3rd constituent assembly was held in Kisumu, Kenya in 2004, and 4th general body was held at Negombo, Sri Lanka in 2007.

After every three years we have general assembly as per the WFFP Constitution. It demands democratic functioning. The agenda encircles elections for the new office bearers, plan out for the global common agenda for the artisanal, small scale fisher communities and the

membership of 10 million fishers in 5 continents in the world.

Two Co-coordinators, Secretary General, Treasurer and 10 coordination committee members serve as the executive body. Coordination committee takes all the decisions of WFFP in between two general Body meetings. In all the forums of WFFP Gender balance is ensured. Equal number of male and female participate meaning fully in decision making processes and meetings. Continental committees are selected from the general assembly. GA-5 hosted by PFF was held in Karachi in 2011"

2. GA-5 of World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) at karachi

Proceedings

GA started with a Coordination Committee meeting presided over by its Coordinator Ms. Sherry Pictou from Canada. She welcomed the guests and extended appreciation to Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), the host organization. Naseegh Jaffer



from South Africa, also a Coordinator shared the agenda of the meeting. Mr Mohammed Ali Shah then presented the



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

detailed programme and read out the agenda.

Inaugural Ceremony

Mr. Zahid Hussain Bhurgari, Provincial Minister for Fisheries was chief guest in the session. As a title of the colourful event lyrical song of Sufi Poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai was performed by PFF cultural group members. M Ali Shah gave welcome speech.

Fisheries Minister Mr. Bhurgari expressed his views, saying that he felt much pleasure to see the fisherfolk of the world united and struggling for their common rights. He



said that his government has done significantly good for protecting the rights of fishers by referring the recently done legislation in the provincial assembly to abolish contract system on fresh waters that ensured the ownership of indigenous fishermen of these waters.

Mr. Herman Kumara Ex. Secretary General of WFFP, gave a brief introduction to WFFP and shared some success stories of WFFP. He said that exploitation and depleting marine resources, increasing pollution and other issues brought the leaders of fisherfolk across the world to form WFFP in Delhi. He said that WFFP have already

designed a global policy for fisheries with recommendations collected from all the member countries. That comprehensive document, he said, can be submitted by every member organization to their respective government.

PFF General Secretary Mr. Saeed Baloch and PFF's General Manager Mr. Hussain Jarwar also spoke on the occasion. At the end of the session, the fishermen leaders expressed their solidarity with the world fishers and vowed to continue their struggle with commitment and dedication. Ms. Sheema Kirmani with her group performed a dance depicting the theme of fishing and the issues and challenges of community.

During the sessions for four consecutive days with enjoying cultural activities the participants discussed various issues, ranging from over fishing, depleting resources to fisheries policies at national level to introduce code of conduct for sustainable and responsible fisheries. Translations in to different languages including English, Spanish, French, Thai and Urdu were also arranged to communicate the delegates. During the discussion four groups each as English Group, Urdu Group, Spanish Group and French Group were formed. The groups were given nine topics and tasked with bringing recommendations before the house. The topics include Climate Change, Food security/rising prices, Women and fishing, Trans-border issues, Child labour, Privatization of coastal areas, Industrial and overfishing, Maritime pollution and cutting of mangroves and Visa process for WFFP.



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

with respect to the development of a new global instrument on small-scale fishing by COFI (FAO). WFFP and its members will endeavour to inform and raise the awareness of local fishing communities about the Bangkok Statement, the UNCLOS, UN declaration of human rights, Convention on Biodiversity, UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous People, and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). This will be



done by using plain local language in an accessible form, as well as alternative print and electronic media, in focus group discussions, workshops and seminars. These activities will ensure that fisher communities are mobilised in order to provide their own contributions to the content of the global instrument on small scale fisheries.

Alongside the above, we will also organise a range of different engagements with state officials at all levels, political leaders and NGOs in order to inform and seek their acceptance of the views of local fishing communities. Furthermore we will use different national level media and other advocacy instruments to further advance the interest of fishing communities to

ensure that the voice of communities are being heard when governments prepare their input for COFI.

This will be done through striking alliances with potential allies and partners and organising national level workshops / forums. We will pursue international alliances with WFF, ICSF, IPC and other potential groups in order to strengthen the position of our mass based struggles in fishing communities. We will organise regional country to country collaboration and workshops as well as international level meetings to coordinate and strengthen the drafting of civil society 'draft' code that we will use as our base document to inform the content of the official global instrument.

Small-scale fisher people in the developed and developing countries have similar challenges as a result of globalisation. In order to avoid dividing small-scale fisher communities in these two parts of the world, WFFP members in the developed countries will formulate a strategy to mobilise small-scale fishers in 'similar countries' to contribute to this process. While studying the ICC effects on fishing communities, to the humanity and to the globe, it was decided to conduct awareness programmes by member organizations of WFFP on negative and destructive impacts on earth caused by Climate Crises among fishing communities. It was decided that national governments must comply with the laws regarding climate change injustices and the WFFP member organizations should become involved to advocate through agitations. This must happen in their respective countries. The forum decided that the WFFP should represent fisher folk at UN convention on bio diversity on a regular basis.



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

It was decided that the WFFP should pursue the national government to compensating the Fisher folk affected by ICC; funding such compensation should begin with the renunciation of illegitimate and odious debt to IFIs.

Other decisions include:

Ø To launch international campaign to pressurize the USA, China and other major contributors of CO₂ and CO to ratify international ICC related frame works.

Ø To mark 'week of global action' in June & July regarding the ICC & IFI's climate enemy projects and Climate injustice in all member countries·

Ø WFFP should convene an international tribunal on "Impacts of Climate Change injustices on fisher folk".

Ø To launch a mass based campaign against sea pollution.

Ø To take active participation to plant mangroves all over the world.

Access to Rights and Privatization:

Ø To initiate trainings of fisher folk with appropriate technologies in small scale fishing sector. Ø To launch a mass-based campaign to promote protection of small scale fisher folk, from displacement, and to ensure livelihood rights, preserve access, which are results of privatisation.

Ø To launch campaigns, struggles against privatisation by alliance building, and networking, throughout the world.

Ø To enhance the mobilisation of the fisher folk for durable and responsible fishing practices.

Ø To protect small local markets. Local product labelling needs to be promoted since it is taken as a source of information

on the origin of the product and the way it produced and other details.

Ø To take stand against commercial corporate fishing, which destroys small scale fishers and aquatic resources and environment

Child Labour and Fishing

It was decided that the WFFP member organizations should advocate and agitate on their respective governments to ratify and draft legislations based on ILO fishing standards convention in 2008 to ensure education facilities for fisher folk families through scholarship schemes.

Trans-border Issues:

It was decided that the WFFP should take a stand to declare a 100 NM buffer zone that fisher folk of neighbouring countries could fish peacefully. WFFP should organize global conference on trans-boundary issues. It was decided that 8 Indian adivasi fishermen who disappeared while fishing in Pakistan water should be find out and repatriated. All Indian & Pakistani fishermen who were held in the jails in both the countries should be released immediately.

Gender & Women Rights:

It was decided that the rights of women involved in fisheries should be protected by launching campaigns and agitation to legislate and implement existing laws. In this regard, an international commission on women's rights should be established within WFFP.

Aqua Culture

It was decided that masses and relevant stakeholders should be sensitized at large about the harms of industrial fishing and commercial aqua culture.



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

Pollution and Degradation of Mangroves

It was decided to participate at (related) international forums and develop ties with



mass movements, NGOs that specifically deal with these issues. WFFP member organizations were urged to observe mangrove replanting and preservation day internationally.

WFFP New office bearers

Coordinators: Sherry Pictou and Naseegh Jaffer

Secretary General: Mohamad Ali Shah

Treasurer: Nathalia Laino

Committee members Asia: Hanna Chevy O. Fiel and R K Patel

Committee members Africa: Fatoumata Diarra and Sid Ahmed Abeid

Committee members Europe & Caribbean: Marie Adamar and Xavier Ezeizabereina

Committee member America: Jorge Varela

Special invitees: Dao Gaye, Thomas Kocherry and Herman Kumara

Official translators: Xavier Ezeizabereina and Alexi Fossi

Decisions Regarding next meeting

The next Coordinating Committee Meeting would be held in Canada in 2012. The 6th General Assembly of the WFFP would be held in South Africa in 2013.

For the CC meetings and the General Assembly: Boarding and lodging would be looked after by the host community.

Air travel is the responsibility of the WFFP.

Pledges of the Coordinating Committee

We work as a team. We have regular communication among us through teleconference and skype every three months. We have communication in all three languages: English, Spanish and French.

We implement our GLOBAL FISHERIES POLICY.

We implement all our decisions.

We launch a movement of planting trees and mangroves wherever we are.

We celebrate November 21 as the WORLD FISHERIES DAY to reiterate that we, the traditional artisanal and small fisher people of the World, who depend on water bodies, coast and fish resources for livelihood, own and manage these Natural Capital.

General Secretary is responsible for all official communication in three languages; newsletter; WFFP webpage; raising money for administration, coordination committee, General Assembly, and auditing. Mr Naseegh Jaffer Mogamad is responsible for telecommunication and skype.



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

WFFP G5 sounds a note to continue struggle

Four-day long event of 5th General Assembly of World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) held in Karachi from April 27—30, 2011, in which 21 delegates from Pakistan, Senegal, Mali, Guinea, France, Canada, Spain to South Africa, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Philippine and India participated. The issues encircling disputes on water territories, detained fishermen and several international frameworks like UN Law of sea, ruining fish stock due to over fishing caused by deep sea, food security, depleting natural resources and climate change were discussed in detail in the meeting. Global fisheries policy has also been focused to overcome the issues and bridge the gaps among states. Constitutional amendments in WFFPs constitution and discussions to strengthen WFFP were also held.

3. Buddhist monks, families stage protest for release of fishers.

Kandakuliya, Sri Lanka: A Buddhist monk and the families of six ill-fated fishermen belonging to coastal areas staged hunger



strike at Kandakuliya in November, 2011 to demand the fishermen detained in Andaman Islands, India. The Indian forces

arrested them two years back and since then they have been languishing in jails and their relatives back are worried about their loved ones.

The protesting families accused Sri Lankan government of not taking any action to facilitate for their safe release. However, the N/W province fisheries minister intervened, giving up the hunger strikers agreeing to bring the detained fishermen back to Sri Lanka within three months time.

The three months time is already approaching but there is no sign of releasing those fishers. Recently, the Buddhist monk and the family members attended for a continuous strike to remind the authorities to fulfill their promise. The uncaring approach of the Sri Lankan authorities compels fisher families and Monks to continue hunger strike from January 25th on wards, unless there will not be any release of fishermen.

4. Small scale fisheries workshops

Kolkata, India

Kolkata, India: National Workshop on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries attracted 62 participants representing the inland and marine fishing communities and non-governmental organizations to discuss FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-Scale Fisheries.

The participants welcomed the decision of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to develop a set of voluntary guidelines

addressing both inland and marine small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, and would complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

About 14 million people are directly dependent on fisheries in India for their life



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

and livelihood, and that vast majority of them are dependent on small-scale fisheries.

Recognizing that fishing has a long tradition in India, and that social development issues are common to all fishers from traditional fishing communities, the workshop lauded the critical role played by women within fisheries and fishing communities. They urged the need for specific focus on supporting and empowering women. They called upon the Government of India, the States, the Union Territories, and the Panchayats, as appropriate, to address their concerns and to recognize and defend the rights of small-scale fishing communities.

The workshop put demands to respect, protect and secure the rights of traditional fishing communities to fishing grounds and resources, considering the importance of fishery resources to their life, culture and livelihood. The speakers were of the opinion to facilitate bottom-up processes for managing marine and inland fisheries by revitalizing traditional institutions and by employing traditional knowledge of fishers, within an appropriate policy and legal framework. They advised to adopt measures to phase out bottom trawling from territorial waters over a period of five years, considering its negative impact on marine ecology, biodiversity and the distribution of marine fishery resources.

National workshop in Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan Fisheries Communities welcomed the Proposed International instrument for the small scale fisheries by Committee on Fisheries of FAO during field survey they conducted in October -- November 2011. During the field survey, about 500 fishers including North, East



Coastal and Inland fishers of lagoons and tanks were consulted. People represented the district fisheries organizations, trade unions, CBOs, as well as some NGOs at those discussions at the field level. During the discussions conducted with fishers, we were able to emphasize the importance of the international involvement in developing voluntary guidelines for sustainable small scale fisheries and our responsibility and right of involvement to the process as a country. Fishers and fisher women had participated the programs enthusiastically, since no one listening to their issues they face in day today livelihood activities and no one value their ideas up to now except community based organizations



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

NAFSO circulated the introduction of the VG-SSF among the regional and the national level workshop participants prior to attending the workshops, advising them to come with preparation to contribute. Also, NAFSO prepared a base document to discuss among the regional as well as national workshop participants call Sinhala vision statement.

SL is a country which affected by Asian tsunami 2004. NAFSO engaged to prepare Citizen's Report to rehabilitate tsunami affected communities around the country. This was also a document discussed at the regional work shop, at least at the coastal areas. The fishers at regional, district level workshops contributed a lot about their local issues related to their access to basic health, education and the benefits of social security.

PFF conducts four regional workshops

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) has organized four participatory regional workshops held in Sukkur, Hyderabad and Karachi in Sindh province and Gowadar in Balochistan province in order to chalk out



recommendations about small scale fisheries in the context of Pakistan. The consultation meetings following FAO committee recommendations got the fishers' input regarding depleting natural resources and its impact on their life, livelihood, social and cultural values. They also discussed the status of fear of food insecurity.

They pointed out that despite abolishing contract system through passing a bill at the forum of Provincial Sindh Assembly many lakes and ponds are still under the control of area influential, who have backing of legislators of ruling parties. In result fishers face hardships to continue their catch.

Local fishers pointed out that government should demarcate the lakes, which are abandoned by stopping their feeding sources through canals, putting fishers to face hunger and poverty.

Due to wrong government policies fresh water bodies receive urban and industrial waste, threatening the fishers to danger their life and livelihoods. Influential people are spraying chemical, killing water species, like blind dolphin in the river Indus. Industrial fishing through trawlers are operating, ruining fish stock as industrialists invest huge money to exploit resources. Use of harmful nets and over fishing has emptied traditional resources, causing unemployment and poverty. Mangroves forests are being cleaned for reclamation of coastal land to use it for commercial purposes. Celebration of World Fisheries Day



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

5. World Fisheries Day Observed

Chennai, India:

A group of fisher folk from Nagapattinam and Karaikal staged a demonstration on the



occasion of World Fisheries Day demanding protection of their livelihood rights.

Members of the fishing village panchayats of Nagapattinam and Karaikal district; Vangakadal fish workers union; Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts Fisherwomen Federation, and Coastal Action Network took part in the demonstration.

While demanding the strict implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone notification 1991 in its original form, the demonstrators urged the Centre to withdraw the Coastal Regulation Zone notification 2011. They sought action against violators of coastal regulation zone notification, 1991 and to provide land rights to the fishing communities for habitat as well as livelihood activities.

Enactment of central marine fishing regulation act for exclusive economic zone; stoppage of Kudankulam nuclear power plant; ensuring legal rights for fishing in Palk Bay and steps to stop the atrocities

committed by the Sri Lankan Navy on Indian fishermen were the other demands.

A.Anjalidevi, general secretary, Vangakadal Meen Thozhilalar Sangam, P.Samikannu, state committee member of Coastal Action Network and R.V.Kumaravelu, advisor of Vangakadal Meen Thozhilalar Sangam, were present.

West Bengal, India:

Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF) celebrated the World Fisheries Day right at the heart of Kolkata through a meeting attended by fishworkers from all three coastal sectors - Sundarban, Kakdwip-Namkhana and Purba Medinipur.

Slogans they introduced include 'Save Water - Save Coast - Save Coastal People', 'Forest Rights to the Fishers in Sundarban', 'Recognise Fish Drying Right on Jambudwip', 'Give land titles of the fish landing centers to the landing centre committees', 'Provide easy loan, subsidised bi-cycles, freezing boxes etc. to the fish vendors', 'Long Live NFF' and 'Long Live DMF'.



Renowned writer and social activist Mahashweta Devi and Fisheries Minister Abu Hena attended the meeting. Abu Hena said that he has already received



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

memoranda from NFF and DMF and the demands of the fishworkers were just. The government is considering the demands, he said.

Pradip Chatterjee - Secretary NFF, Tejendralal Das - President DMF, Debasis Shyamal - Secretary DMF, Achintya Pramanik - Secretary Medinipur Upakulya Matsya Vendor Union, Gobinda Das - Secretary Sundarban Matsyajibi Joutha Sangram Committee spoke on the occasion highlighting the problems faced by the fisher people and the government's responsibility to address those.

World Fisheries Day in Senegal

MENAFN - Stakeholders in the fisheries sector, including fishworkers and journalists celebrate the World Fisheries Day in the Senegalese town of M'bour. The event was co-organised by the African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fishing Organisations (CAOPA) and International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF). The theme borrowed from the title of a new international instrument for small-scale fisheries, developed by the FAO was: "Securing sustainable small scale fisheries." According to information gathered from the International Collective in Support of Fish workers in Belgium, a common vision of artisanal fisheries in Africa from social and economic perspective, highlighted the good practices undertaken by the sector (co-management, selectivity, low environmental impact, providing local food and livelihoods among others).

Many African countries have failed to benefit from the exploitation of their fishing resources, and African fishing

dependent communities suffer daily from the negative consequences of bad fisheries governance. In particular, the lack of transparency in the access to resources especially by fleets of foreign origin has been an important element leading to over exploitation of resources. Similarly, the lack of transparency in the design, management and evaluation of the many projects, supposed to support sustainable fisheries development, has also been a central element why the majority of these projects have not had the desired effects.

Mass rally

Tamilnadu, Sri Lanka:

There was a mass rally and public meeting in Ramewaram, Tamilnadu. Gnanaseelan, and Patrick Panchayat Presidents, Annammal, Paulsamy, Jabar and Thomas Kocherry spoke on the occasion. Thomas Kocherry said "we have to fight for the right to fish Sea Cucumba. We have to fight to stop killing fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy. We have to stop the Koodamkulam Nuclear Plant and Kalppakkom Nuclear Plants. We have to organise a padayatra



from Rameswaram to Koodamkulam as the second Dandi March. We have to see thousands join the March. People should



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

take the responsibility of looking after the expenses of the March.”

He said the World Fisheries Day was founded on 21st November 1997 in Delhi at the time of founding the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

Pakistan fishers celebrate World Fisheries Day

Pakistan fishermen celebrated the World Fisheries Day on November 21, 2011 at



marine and inland waters to express solidarity with the world fishers. Organised by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), district bodies, the fishers—men and women—staged colourful rallies with traditional enthusiasm to own and protect natural resources, believing these are for their future generations.

The main event held at famous Motani Jetty in the largest fishermen locality Ibrahim Hyderi, located in outskirts of Karachi, where a large number of fishers hailing from different coastal localities participated.

Fishers as usual decorated their vessels and the streets with displaying welcoming banners to receive the guests.

Sindh Fisheries Minister Zahid Hussain Bhurgari was the chief guest on the occasion, while PFF Chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah, who is also Secretary General of World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) and others spoke on the occasion. In his message, Shah asked the fishers to take care of their resources, avoid polluting it. Save all the marine species, including plants, turtles and dolphins.

6. Citizen's Statement on Koodankulam

Conscious citizens, writers and activists expressed shock over the recent spate of misinformation campaign launched by the nuclear establishment regarding the Koodankulam nuclear power plant. Even as the Expert Committee, appointed by the Prime Minister recently as a result of consistent struggle by the local people, springs into action and takes into account the views of activists and the Tamil Nadu government, the AEC and the NPCIL have gone on a media offensive claiming the protests are triggered by foreign elements. While this is an affront to the protesting people's integrity and knowledge and agency, it is also a clear attempt to undermine the ongoing consultation process. This is entirely unacceptable, the joint statement said.

The signatories include Thomas Kocherry of WFFP, Arati Chokshi, PUCL (Bangalore), Asit Das (Activist and Researcher, New Delhi), Dharendra Sharma (Centre for Science Policy, Dehradun), Dunu Roy (Hazard Centre, New Delhi), Faisal Khan (NAPM, Asha Pariwar), Rohini Hensman (Writer and activist, Bombay.)



E-NEWSLETTER

Volume-1, Issue-1

World Forum of Fisher People

The AEC Chairman has also tried to undermine the very rationale of the consultation process by claiming that the Koodankulam reactor cannot be shut down. Independent experts have questioned the validity of such pronouncement and have underlined that a 'hot run' of the power plant does not involve any irreversible radioactive process. The PMO's press release last month also assured the activists that no radioactive process has been started in Koodankulam.

There have been precedents, like Shoreham in the US, where nuclear reactors have been shut down due to public disapproval.

The statement has urged the government to go ahead with a transparent and democratic review of the Koodankulam nuclear power project. It also urged the nuclear establishment to desist from scuttling such process by going to media with misleading and irrelevant claims.

Lifting ban on uranium sell to India opposed

Delhi, India

Fr. Xavier Pinto has written an open letter to Ms. Julia Gillard, the Prime Minister of Australia urging her not to sell uranium to India, saying it will leave India the poorer if you lift the ban on uranium sales. India and the world know that Australia does a lot for India. The letter said it is time that all concerned, especially governments, search for safer means of generating energy. These are available for those with the will to develop alternative energy sources, and so avoid excessive risks to later generations.

"I read with great distress news that you are urging your Government to overturn a ban on supplying Australian uranium to India. If this news is true, please, please do not do this," Pinto said in the letter.

The world at large is still struggling to understand the effects and aftermath of several nuclear disasters which have occurred in plants and establishments certified as "very safe". The one in Fukushima, Japan, a nation of advanced technologies, is still in the news. Recently the Catholic Bishops of Japan (CBCJ) have warned how dangerous and ill-conceived plans for nuclear plants are.