



AFSSRN BULLETIN

Bi-annual Newsletter of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network
Asian Fisheries Society
Issue 6 July to December 2024

AFSSRN General Assembly Elects New Officers



Chair: Dr. Nikita Gopal
Principal Scientist, ICAR- CIFE,
Kerala, India

Vice-Chair: Dr. Gay Defiesta
Faculty, University of the
Philippines Visayas

Secretary: Dr, Neha Qureshi
Scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai,
India

Treasurer: Dr. Moe Shwe Sin
Sr Lecturer, Universiti Malaysia
Terengganu

Members:
Asst. Prof. Joseph Paul Ramirez
University of the Philippines Los
Banos

Dr. Armen Zulham
Senior Researcher, National
Research and Innovation Agency
Indonesia

Dr. Rhodella Ibabao
University of the Philippines
Visayas

Dr. Umi Muawanah
Senior Researcher, National
Research and Innovation Agency
Indonesia

Mr. Joey Pedrajas
Freelance Consultant, USAID
Sustainable Fish Asia Technical
Support Activity

Ex-officio/Immediate Past Chair:
Dr. Marieta Bañez Sumagaysay
Professor, University of the
Philippines Tacloban College

A nominations and election process for the AFSSRN Execom 2024-2027 was conducted from 1 August 2024 to 26 October 2024 starting with the announcement of the nomination period until election day. Dr. Alita Roxas led the process. On 11 December 2024, the new-elected AFSSRN Execom took their oath of office during the online ASSRN General Assembly.

In her speech, the incoming Chair, Dr. Nikita Gopal looks forward to AFSSRN being a strong platform for discourse amid the changing situation and challenges in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. She thanked the Execom 2021-2024 headed by Dr. Marieta Bañez Sumagaysay, and committed to build on the milestones achieved. Prof. Neil Loneragan, AFS President, highlighted the role of the social sciences in fisheries. He thanked the AFSSRN for supporting the goals of the Asian Fisheries Society, and offered his encouragement and support for future AFSSRN initiatives.

Training on Fisheries Social Science Research Methods for early career scientists and students

A Training on Fisheries Social Science Research Methods for early career researchers and students will be hosted by AFSSRN during the 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14 AFAF). Esteemed speakers are Dr. Piyashi Debroy, Scientist at ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, West Bengal; Asst. Prof. Saba Nabi of the College of Fisheries, Kishanganj, Bihar; and Dr. Neha Qureshi, Scientist at ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, India. Moderating the training is Dr. Nikita Gopal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE Kerala. The training is the second part of the AFSSRN Special Session which runs from 11:15am to 1:00pm on 14 February 2025.



MARIETA BAÑEZ SUMAGAYSAY, PhD
Chair, AFSSRN 2021-2024
Professor in Economics
University of the Philippines Tacloban College

Dear AFSSRN Colleagues,

Together with the AFSSRN Execom of 2021-2024, may I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for sharing your time and expertise ---our unified efforts --- to bring AFSSRN to greater visibility and higher productivity in service of the academe and other stakeholders in fisheries social sciences. We recognize each one's scholarly outputs, nine of which were featured (as research abstracts) in previous issues of the AFSSRN Bulletin. There were eight others who presented their papers in AFSSRN-organized panels in international conferences like AFAF, ISAFE and ICFAS.

Having multi-country representations in activities is worth replicating and expanding to a wider reach. We had the monthly AFSSRN webinars with speakers from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. We likewise conducted a KAPs study on single-use plastics for India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Mentoring early career researchers is also AFSSRN's commitment. We had a training on Gender Analysis in Aquaculture and Fisheries Social Science Research (2022) and Training on Fisheries Social Science Research Methods (2025).

On 11 December 2024, we had our AFSSRN General Assembly where our new set of AFSSRN Execom, headed by our new Chair, Dr. Nikita Gopal, took their oath of office. Let's all rally behind and support our new AFSSRN leaders. **MARAMING SALAMAT. THANK YOU.**

MORE AFSSRN WEBINARS IN 2024



The second of a series of monthly AFSSRN Webinars on the theme, "Narrowing the Social Science and Fisheries Technology Divide," was held on 28 August 2024. The esteemed speaker, Dr. Abdul Halim, Country Representative of

the Environmental Defense Fund, Indonesia Office talked on how the e-logbook technology facilitates regular data collection on blue swimming crabs. He discussed on how small-scale fishers in Lampung Province, Indonesia are motivated to voluntarily report catches regular. He highlighted how social science analysis helps decision makers understand behavioral changes towards increased likelihood of e-logbook adoption.



The third webinar happened on 25 September 2024. Ms. Jee Grace B. Suyo-Diala, a faculty of the College of Management, University of the Philippines Visayas, talked on the role of social science networks in the advancement of the Philippine

seaweed industry. Having done several seaweed-related research, Ms. Suyo-Diala discussed how the social networks and power relations among seaweed value chain actors influence the seaweed industry. She discussed the importance of the social and gender lens can reveal sustainability indicators that might be otherwise overlooked.



The fourth webinar featured a Malaysian perspective on integrating technology, nature and community towards enhancing climate resilience and sustainability in coastal communities. Dr. Natrah Ikhsan, a faculty of the College of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, discussed how the use of advanced technologies for environmental monitoring and educational platforms. She also described how coastal communities can benefit from the Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) for healthier ecosystems that ensure sustainability of coastal aquaculture practices and livelihood opportunities.

AFSSRN PAPERS ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN FISHERIES VALUE CHAIN AT THE 14AFAF, INDIA

14TH ASIAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FORUM

Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network (AFSSRN)

Special Panel Session on
Knowledge, Perception and Attitude of Stakeholders on
Single-Use Plastic and its Effects on the Marine
Environment: a Gendered Value Chain Analysis of Fisheries

14 February 2025, 11:15 - 13:00 hrs
ICAR Convention Center, NASC Complex, New Delhi, India

**PART 1
COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS**

INDIA	INDONESIA	PHILIPPINES
DR. NEHA W. QURESHI Scientist ICAR - Central Institute of Fisheries Education	DR. ARMEN ZULHAM Senior Researcher National Research and Innovation Agency	DR. MARIETA BAÑEZ SUMAGAYSAY Professor University of the Philippines Tacloban College

**PART 2
TRAINING ON FISHERIES SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS**

NON-PARAMETRIC TESTS - THEORY AND APPLICATION IN FISHERIES RESEARCH

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH TOOLS FOR FISHERIES SOCIAL SCIENCE	RESEARCH TOOLS FOR BEHAVIORAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT
DR. PIYASHI DEBROY Scientist ICAR - Central Inland Fisheries Institute West Bengal, India	MS. SABA NABI Assistant Professor Fisheries Economics, College of Fisheries Khangrang, Bihar, India
DR. NEHA W. QURESHI Scientist ICAR - Central Institute of Fisheries Education Mumbai, India	MODERATOR: DR. NIKITA GOPAL Principal Scientist ICAR - Central Institute of Fisheries Education Karim, India

The AFSSRN will host a special session during the 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF) which will be held on 12-15 February 2025 at the ICAR Convention Center, NASC Complex, New Delhi, India. The special session will have two parts. Part 1 will be paper presentations on the results of the 3-country research on "Knowledge, Perception and Attitude of Stakeholders on Single-Use Plastics and its Effects on the Marine Environment: A Gendered Value Chain Analysis of Fisheries." Presenter are Dr Neha Qureshi (India), Dr Armen Zulham (Indonesia), and Dr. Marieta Bañez Sumagaysay (Philippines). This will be followed by Part 2, a Training on Fisheries Social Science Research Methods for early career researchers and students