



GAF7 summary

Empowering, counting and hearing women: GAF7 showcases gender equality progress and challenges

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In 2018, the GAF Section hosted our first standalone event: GAF7. This was an exciting opportunity to create a platform for sharing the latest research on gender in aquaculture and fisheries, learning new methods and approaches, launching new training products and crafting a vision for the future of our research field. GAF7 followed 28 years of women and gender symposia and workshops supported by the Asian Fisheries Society and its Indian Branch.

GAF7 was hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok from 18–21 October 2018. It included three intense days of conference and side events plus a well-attended field trip. Event co-organizers included the GAF Section, the AIT and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific. It was sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (Platinum), WorldFish (Gold), the Crawford Fund, USAID Oceans, Plan International, Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau

(Silver) and the Commission on Gender and Geography (Bronze), and had 17 partners and supporters from Asia, Australia and beyond.

Our participants were geographically diverse, coming from 28 countries. The 149 participants represented: Africa (4 percent), Asia (72 percent), Europe (5 percent), North America (7 percent), Oceania and Australia (7 percent) and South America and the Caribbean (5 percent); 81 percent of attendees were women and 19 percent men.

GAF7 was vibrant, from the opening session in which Dr. Eden Woon, President of the AIT, welcomed us, and Dr. Darian McBain, Global Director for Sustainable Development, Thai Union, delivered the keynote address, to the final prize-giving and closing session. At the opening ceremony, Dr. Amonrat Sermwatanakul, Senior Executive Expert in Fisheries Management, Department of Fisheries, Thailand Ministry of Agriculture and

Cooperatives, was presented with a special plaque recognizing her promotion of gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries, including through receiving the Grand Award for Excellence in Human Rights Protection and Gender Equality Promotion (Public Sector) from the Prime Minister of Thailand.

This was also our biggest event to date. GAF7 offered **abundant choices** among the 95 research presentations (78 oral and 17 posters), grouped into eight thematic sessions and nine workshops, run in four parallel sessions, each well attended and including participatory learning techniques. Most importantly, during discussions within the formal settings of sessions and workshops, as well as informal discussions in the hallways and over shared meals, participants explored GAF issues, shared experiences, learned from each other and built professional networks as well as friendships.

While discussing gender issues in aquaculture and fisheries, GAF7 did not forget gender issues in conference participation either. We put theory into practice by offering free childcare services to all participants, which allowed researchers and writers with young children to join in the immense sharing and learning experiences the conference offered. This facility was much appreciated by all delegates and would be a welcome service at all Asian Fisheries Society conferences, regardless of topic.

The conference also focused on sharing the latest gender research approaches, including the gender-transformative approach, and applying feminist intersectionality. Other areas were innovative technologies, women's collective action and photovoice.



Dr. Darian McBain delivering the keynote address



Dr. Amonrat Sermwatanakul with the GAF7 plaque recognizing her promotion of gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries.

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Session themes

- I. Gender assessments in fisheries and aquaculture
- II. Gender-disaggregated statistics
- III. Gender and the seafood industry
- IV. Gender and fisheries and aquaculture governance
- V. Gender and climate change with reference to fisheries and aquaculture
- VI. Focus on SDG 5, and other SDGs, in fisheries and aquaculture
- VII. Gender research methods in fisheries and aquaculture
- VIII. Learning exchanges—experiences and lessons

Special workshops

- I. Photovoice: Researching gender in aquaculture and fisheries through the camera lens (Janine Pierce, Aquaculture without Frontiers Australia)
- II. GAF 101: Using 'intersectionality' in research on gender and fisheries and aquaculture. A GAF 101 training session (Marilyn Porter and Holly Hapke)
- III. Plan International SEAS for Change project (Sadia Tahseen and Iris Caluag)
- IV. Furthering/deepening feminist perspectives in fisheries (Nalini Nayak and Cornelia Quist)
- V. Exploring gender equity and equality in the SSF Guidelines (Danika Kleiber, Whitney Yadao-Evans and Cynthia McDougall)
- VI. Role of women fishworker organizations towards implementation and monitoring of SSF Guidelines; the case of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) (Editrudith Lukanga and Kafayat Adetoun Fakoya)
- VII. Gender-transformative approaches in fisheries and aquaculture: An exploration of strategies and emerging outcomes (Cynthia McDougall)
- VIII. Gender analysis through micro and small aquaculture operation (MiSAO) best aquaculture practices (Zumilah Binti Zainalaludin)
- IX. Mainstreaming gender in fisheries education (Mary Barby Badayos-Jover, Arpita Sharma, Kyoko Kusakabe, Salin Krishna and Kumi Soejima)