

SEAFOOD 90 - KYOTO

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OPENING SESSION

Opening Remarks: Akio Kyoya, Director General of Fisheries Agency, M.A.F.F., Japan.

- Kyoya noted that "unfair" bilateral protectionism in fisheries is worrying to Japan. Such protectionism interferes with established conservation and utilization agreements. He expressed support for the FAO and urged cooperation and promotion of trade in fish and seafood.

Keynote Speaker - Armin Lindquist, Assistant Director General, Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy.

High Value Seafood or Fish For Food - The Role of Fish Trade for Development.

- FAO estimates that the world catch of fish and seafood grew to 96.5 million tonnes in 1988, an increase of 3.8 million tonnes or roughly 4 percent above the level estimated for 1987. Between 1978 and 1988, the world catch grew by approximately 26 million tonnes or 37.5 percent. Most of the that growth, roughly 19 million tonnes, occurred after 1983.

- World fisheries are a source of income for 100 million people. Developing countries now earn more from fish sales than from agriculture. Growth in aquaculture in developing countries is a significant factor. For example, world production of farmed shrimp, primarily in developing countries, has tripled since 1985. Farmed shrimp now accounts for one-quarter of world shrimp production, and the bulk of it goes into international trade. (China is an exception to this pattern - one-half of Chinese shrimp production is being used domestically.)

- In 1988 more than one-third of the world catch, or some 33 million tonnes of fish and seafood products, entered world trade. In addition the value of the trade had increased three-fold over that of 1978. This trade is beginning to show the effects of the boom in fish farming. For example, the growth in supplies of farmed salmon and shrimp resulted in declines in 1989 market prices, some by up to 30-40 percent, especially for salmon.

- The effect of fish farming and the changing pattern of capture fisheries on trade is particularly noteworthy for Canada. In 1987, Canada was the world's leading exporter of fish and seafood. Now, Taiwan and Thailand are the world leaders in the trade. Taiwan