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MULTILATERAL

Agreement on the network of aquaculture centres in Asia and the Pacific (with annex). Concluded at Bangkok on 8 January 1988

Authentic text: English.

Registered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 6 March 1990.

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Accord relatif au réseau de centres d'aquaculture d'Asie et du Pacifique (avec annexe). Conclu à Bangkok le 8 janvier 1988

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture le 6 mars 1990.

AGREEMENT¹ ON THE NETWORK OF AQUACULTURE CENTRES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Contracting Parties,

Conscious of the paramount importance of fisheries as an essential sector of development in the Asia-Pacific region;

Recognizing that aquaculture plays a vital role in the promotion and better use of fishery resources;

Recognizing that the establishment and maintenance of a network of aquaculture centres in the region can make a significant contribution to the development of aquaculture;

Considering that the success of such a network will depend largely on close regional cooperation;

Considering that cooperation in this field can best be achieved through the establishment of an intergovernmental organization carrying out its activities in collaboration with other governments as well as organizations and institutions that may be able to provide financial and technical support;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

ESTABLISHMENT

The Contracting Parties hereby establish the Organization for the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) with the objectives and functions set out hereinafter.

Article 2

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement:

"Aquaculture" means the farming of aquatic organisms.

¹ Came into force with respect to all Governments which have ratified it or acceded thereto, on 11 January 1990, the date when instruments of ratification or accession had been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations by at least five Governments listed in the annex, in accordance with article 16 (4):

<i>Governments</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)</i>
China	11 January 1990 <i>a</i>
Hong Kong	14 December 1988
Nepal	4 January 1990
Sri Lanka	5 January 1989
Viet Nam	2 February 1989 <i>a</i>

"Donor Government" means a government, other than a Member Government, which makes a substantial contribution to the activities of the Organization and has concluded an agreement pursuant to Article 15 of this Agreement.

"Member" means a government which is a contracting party to this Agreement.

"National centre" means an aquaculture institution designated by a Member to serve as national focal point for linkage with NACA.

"Organization" means the Organization for the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA).

"Regional centre" means an aquaculture institution in the Asia-Pacific region selected by the Members to serve as a lead centre to share in the regional activities and responsibilities of NACA.

Article 3

OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of the Organization shall be to assist the Members in their efforts to expand aquaculture development mainly for the purpose of:

- a) increasing production;
- b) improving rural income and employment;
- c) diversifying farm production; and
- d) increasing foreign exchange earnings and savings.

2. In order to facilitate the achievement of the foregoing objectives, the Organization shall:

- a) consolidate the establishment of an expanded network of aquaculture centres to share the responsibility of research, training and information exchange essential to aquaculture development in the region;
- b) strengthen institutional and personal links among national and regional centres through the exchange of technical personnel, technical know-how and information;
- c) promote regional self-reliance in aquaculture development through Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC); and
- d) promote the role of women in aquaculture development.

Article 4

FUNCTIONS

In order to achieve its objectives, the Organization shall:

- a) conduct disciplinary and interdisciplinary research on selected aquafarming systems for adaptation or improvement of technologies, and for the development of new technologies;
- b) train and upgrade core personnel needed for national aquaculture planning, research, training, extension and development;
- c) establish a regional information system to provide appropriate information for development planning, research and training;
- d) assist Members in strengthening their national centres linked to the regional centres;
- e) assist the national centres of Members in testing and adapting existing technology to local requirements and in the training of technicians, extension workers and farmers at the national level;
- f) transfer to the Members appropriate aquaculture technologies and techniques developed at regional centres;
- g) facilitate the exchange of national experts, technical know-how and information within the framework of TCDC;
- h) develop programmes for the promotion of womens' participation in aquaculture development at all levels;
- i) assist Members in feasibility studies and project formulation; and
- j) undertake such other activities related to the objectives of the Organization as may be approved by the Governing Council.

Article 5

SEAT

1. The Seat of the Organization shall be determined by the Governing Council, subject to the consent of the Member concerned.
2. The Host Government shall provide free of charge or at a nominal rent, such accommodation and facilities as are necessary for the efficient conduct of work at the Seat of the Organization.
3. If necessary, the Governing Council may establish subsidiary offices, subject to the consent of the Members concerned; in so doing account should be taken of the possibility of utilizing accommodation in existing centres.

Article 6

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Members of the Organization shall be the Contracting Parties to this Agreement.
2. The original Members of the Organization shall be the Governments in Asia and the Pacific invited to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries at which this Agreement was adopted, which have ratified the Agreement or have acceded thereto. A list of invited Governments is given in Annex to this Agreement.
3. The Governing Council of the Organization may, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members, authorize any Government not referred to in paragraph 2 above, which has submitted an application for membership, to accede to this Agreement as in force at the time of accession, in accordance with Article 16, paragraph 3.

Article 7

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

1. Members shall, in accordance with this Agreement, have the right:
 - a) to attend the meetings of the Governing Council and other appropriate meetings that may be called by the Organization;
 - b) to obtain on request, free of charge within reasonable limits, information available within the Organization, on matters of their concern, including guidelines for obtaining technical assistance, and collaboration in the study of their problems; and
 - c) to receive free of charge publications and other information that may be distributed by the Organization.
2. Members shall, in accordance with this Agreement, have the following obligations:
 - a) to settle their financial obligations towards the Organization;
 - b) to collaborate in determining the technical activities of the Organization;
 - c) to provide, promptly, information reasonably requested by the Organization, to the extent that this is not contrary to any laws or regulations of the Member;
 - d) to undertake assignments that may be mutually agreed between individual Members or groups of Members and the Organization;
 - e) to accord to the Organization and its Members, in so far as it may be possible under the constitutional procedures of the respective Members, facilities which are deemed essential for the successful functioning of the Organization; and