



# 25 years in Bangladesh

Celebration of collaboration with Bangladesh Agricultural University



On 5th October 2004 a programme of events was arranged at BAU to highlight the progress made in the fisheries sector in Bangladesh over the last 25 years and the role played by the Institute-BAU collaboration, much of which has been funding by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

A key focus of the day was looking at the future of aquaculture in Bangladesh. More than 50 post-graduate alumni from all over Bangladesh attended the celebration along with staff from the Institute of Aquaculture and other universities in Bangladesh to enjoy the academic and cultural programme put together by current staff and students. The events have since been widely covered in the Bangladeshi, UK and international media.

It is traditional in Bangladesh to announce events like this with a rally on the day of proceedings. Carrying banners, wearing hats and holding large cut-out shapes is something that would happen at national Fish Fortnight events held every year to raise the profile of work in the fisheries sector.

The chief guest for the day was Dr M. Osman Farruk, Minister for Education, who gave an enjoyable and inspiring speech. He presented plaques to Professor Aminul Haque for his foundation of the Faculty of Fisheries; Professor Christina Sommerville for her role in starting the partnership 25 years ago and to Professor James Muir for his significant continued contribution to the fisheries sector in Bangladesh. A plaque was also presented by Professor Sommerville to BAU to mark the occasion.

A drawing competition with pupils from local schools was arranged. Paintings in three age categories were judged under the theme 'fisheries livelihoods'. The picture shows the winners and runner's up in each category.

An evening of cultural events to mark 'new dimensions in friendship' was devised and performed by staff and students from the Faculty of Fisheries to an audience of more than 1000 people in the BAU auditorium. Very entertaining.

A dinner was arranged for all alumni and their families as well as current staff and performing students. Everyone enjoyed a great day and the chance to discuss the future of aquaculture in Bangladesh.



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