

Closing Remarks

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Distinguished participants. On behalf of the organizers, I would like to give a few concluding remarks for this Symposium.

As a follow up of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, and on the occasion of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022, today's symposium provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the role of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in the provision of foods rich in diverse nutrients. Artisanal fisheries and aquaculture also create employment and contribute to maintaining knowledge systems and sociocultural values in rural communities.

In turn, in order to play a central role in the global food systems transformation, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture sector needs innovations to unlock the potentials of small-scale stakeholders. Given the extreme heterogeneity and diversity of their environment, however, developing and applying innovations without leaving no one behind is no easy task.

Today, we have greatly benefitted from the leading experts who shared their experiences of how best to address challenges of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. While no single solution exists, multi-disciplinary approach can be a key to address not only the technical challenges small-scale operators face in locally specific contexts, but also identify support areas to overcome socio-economic constraints, including regulations and institutions. Therefore, accelerating innovations in artisanal fisheries and aquaculture requires not only local actions but also enabling commitment of all the stakeholders, from local communities, research institutions, private sectors, and policymakers.

I would like to take this moment to thank all our participants, especially the keynote speakers Prof. YAGI Nobuyuki and Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted. JIRCAS is also very grateful for having the opportunity to organize this symposium with supports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency.

Finally, thank you to all the symposium participants, the on-site and online audience, as well as to everyone involved in planning and management of this hybrid event. We are truly grateful for your valuable contributions and attendance. Thank you very much.