

Opening Remarks

The 3rd Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

I am Toshio Takeuchi, President of this Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, which we call it TUMSAT. I would like to make a short address to you.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Tokyo and especially to our University, which we also can call the 'home' of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, NPFC. Our University was selected as one of the top 20 small universities in the world by Times Higher Education, two years ago. That is why in 2014 when the Fisheries Agency of Japan discussed with us the possibility of hosting the Secretariat of the NPFC, we agreed as it would be an additional honor to be the 'home' for such an organization. The first committees meeting was held at TUMSAT in September 2015, three year ago. This time, 3rd Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee is also held our campus. We thank you very much.

We have already established excellent relations with the Secretariat and have had the pleasure of having your staff provide guest lectures for our students and we had 8 students including undergraduate and graduate school students as shift-work

assistants to support the Science Meetings and the Commission Meeting in last year. This time, we have two excellent international students from TUMSAT. One is from Fiji and the other is from China. They will keep supporting this meeting in June and July. I am also aware that some of our professors are serving as the Chairs of some of your committees, Dr. Morishita for the Scientific Committee, and Dr. Kitakado for the Technical Working Group on Pacific Saury Stock Assessment, a very important resource for Japan. These associations also strengthen the ties between the University and the NPFC and have created a 'win-win' situation for all of us. These associations are of mutual benefit and we look forward to extending them further in the future.

It is always a great challenge to take a lead role when setting up a new organization, and one that is growing like NPFC. You started with six Members and in the short time you have been here you have taken on two new Members, the United States of America, and Vanuatu, and it is my understanding from the Executive Secretary that it appears that there are three more parties that want to be involved, a possible more than 90% increase in membership in less than four years. It shows the significance of the North Pacific to the regional community, and with the new applicants, to the global community.

I am aware that although NPFC is relatively young, you are progressing rapidly to becoming an important link in the global community of regional fisheries management organizations. Your efforts in addressing your objective “to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur” are commendable given the short time you have been in existence.

I have read that you already have nine key regulations to address registration of vessels, illegal fishing activities, protection of the ecosystems and also for the management of some of the priority species for management under NPFC. This is significant progress in a very short time.

When talking with Dr. Moon, I understood that you are moving into the electronic world for development of various database tools for data collection and reporting, some of these initiatives which I understand shall be discussed at this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, I commend you in your efforts and I am very happy that our university can play a small part in this important global exercise.

I do not wish to take too much of your time, but again welcome you to Tokyo and our TUMSAT and wish you the very best in your meetings this week and next week. You have three meetings, this 3rd technical and Compliance Committee Meeting, 2nd Finance and Administration Committee Meeting, and 4th Annual Session of the Commission. You have to work very hard, please take care your health and also please enjoy capital Tokyo. I am very pleased to have our university as 'home' to the NPFC Secretariat and as part of this globally important work. We commend you in your work with your international partners, and I look forward to a continued and long association with NPFC and the Secretariat.

Thank you