

PROSPECTUS

of the

FAO/NACEE CONFERENCE ON AQUACULTURE OF THE CAUCASUS/CASPIAN COUNTRIES

The Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation (HAKI), Szarvas, Hungary, as Coordinating Institution of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central-Eastern Europe, (NACEE) and the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), Budapest, Hungary, are organizing the FAO/NACEE Conference on Aquaculture of the Caucasus/Caspian Countries in Yerevan, Armenia, on 21-22 April 2009. The meeting is supported by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Budapest, Hungary.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central-Eastern Europe (NACEE) had identified development of collaboration between NACEE and other regional networks/organisations as one of its primary objectives already in its Foundation Document.

Discussions with FAO-REU and FAO-SEUR brought about the idea of establishing closer contacts with countries bordering on the NACEE region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Provisions for granting official status with NACEE for institutions of these countries were made in the by-law of NACEE, by establishment of „*associated membership*”. During the Third Meeting of NACEE Directors, the Meeting agreed that NACEE could offer Associate Membership to interested institutions from these countries. Associate Membership would include invitations to interested institutions to join NACEE meetings or other events. Associate members do not pay membership fees and have no voting rights. Several institutions from these countries (especially Georgia and Kazakhstan) have requested information on joining NACEE, but no concrete steps have been made yet

In 2007, in a meeting between Laszlo Varadi (NACEE) and Maria Kadlecikova, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia in Budapest, the idea of a Sub-regional Aquaculture Conference was discussed. It was agreed that such a sub-regional conference would be a good contribution to the development of the planned collaboration between NACEE and countries bordering on the NACEE region. Mme Kadlecikova confirmed the willingness of FAO's Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia (REU) to co-organize the conference with NACEE and to discuss details with a representative of NACEE, including funding. The NACEE Board of Directors welcomed the idea of organising a NACEE-FAO/REU Sub-regional Aquaculture Conference. HAKI, as the Coordinating Institution of NACEE, was requested to discuss details with FAO/REU, elaborate a proposal and send it to member institutions.

During the FAO/NACEE Conference on Aquaculture of the Caucasus/Caspian Countries, participants are expected to discuss the status and trends of aquaculture development in the Caucasus/Caspian countries and the NACEE region, as well as the improvement of cooperation possibilities between the two regions. Particular emphasis will be given to the development of joint project proposals and related fund raising opportunities, organisation of joint conferences, workshops and training events, and improvement of mobility.

Venue of the Conference: Armenian Royal Palace Hotel, Yerevan, Armenia

Dates of the Conference: 21-22 April 2009

Thematic areas:

- Overview of aquaculture development in the NACEE region (1 general presentation + specific reports)
- Overview of aquaculture development in the Caucasus/Caspian region (country reports)
- Presentations on cooperation possibilities in different areas (EU projects where Caucasus/Caspian countries can be involved; other funding possibilities; possible involvement of NACEE members in fisheries development projects in the Caucasus, possible cooperation in education and training; mobility of students and researchers; mutual visits of farmers; business opportunities; NACEE as a framework for cooperation)
- Discussion on cooperation arrangements on different level (governmental, interregional, inter-institutional); possible formulation and signing of agreements
- Adoption of the report of the conference

PARTICIPATION

The Meeting is expected to be attended by invited representatives of NACEE member institutions and the relevant fisheries and aquaculture-related institutions of the Caucasus/Caspian region; invited government representatives; experts of FAO's Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service, FAO, Rome and the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Budapest, Hungary. Representatives of the European Commission, NACA and NACEE partner organizations will also be invited.