



Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture

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Our Response to the "Shrimp Dialogue Committee" organized by WWF in Bangkok on November 17-18, 2008

Whereas, having attended the "Shrimp Dialogue" in Asia, and having gained a better understanding of the proposed mechanism for developing global standards for industrial shrimp aquaculture, we NGOs and representatives of regional NGO networks from Asia, Latin America, Europe and the USA, we must continue to take a strong stance against this and other shrimp certification attempts.

We believe that these attempts at certification are funder and industry driven, and do not allow the voice of the majority of affected stakeholders- the indigenous and local communities - to have meaningful input into this so-called "dialogue" and standard-setting process. As well, these standards are based upon an unsustainable, open throughput system of aquaculture production, and not upon a more sustainable closed production approach which indicates that the proposed standards are aimed in an inappropriate and environmentally dangerous direction.

Therefore, we submit the Lampung Declaration of Sept. 2007 to this "Dialogue" Committee in hopes that those attending this "dialogue" will follow our lead in asking for a halt to further shrimp farm expansion as prescribed in the Lampung Declaration and Red Manglar Declaration, and as prescribed by the Ramsar Resolution 21 VII of 1999. We ask that Lampung Declaration and Redmanglar statement to be included in the meeting proceedings.

We appreciate WWF inviting us to this meeting and allowing us to present our views, but we would like to make sure that our presence here does not mean that we endorse that there is a fair representation of the local communities in this "dialogue". We would still like to invite WWF to a round table discussion together with our networks and local communities for future discussions.