

It is with great pleasure that the Crawford Fund awards Dr Meryl Williams the 2015 Crawford Fund Medal for her extensive and continuing contributions to international research in fisheries and aquaculture.

Meryl works tirelessly in advocacy for international fisheries in relation to human resources. Currently her focus is on women and gender in aquaculture and fisheries, as well as on the advance of knowledge, information and science to ensure that fish production is both fair and responsible.

Through a career spanning more than 30 years, Meryl has published widely on aspects of fish harvesting and fisheries management around the world. Her recent work emphasises fish in relation to food security and nutrition. She emphasises that fish can be a key ingredient in feeding the world's expected 9 billion people if fisheries are subject to sound management and policy.

Meryl has enormous influence through her membership of boards and advisory committees, both international and Australian. For instance, she is currently the Vice Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation and a member of the board of Aquaculture without Frontiers (Australia). And as an Honorary Life Member of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), she is leading the AFS project to develop an online information system for Asia-Pacific fisheries and aquaculture, called AsiaPacific-FishWatch. Meryl also initiated the long running series of global symposia on women/gender in fisheries and aquaculture and maintains the related global website Genderaquafish.org.

Among numerous previous positions, Meryl has been Chair of the Commission of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, vice-chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-STAP), and has led a number of key international evaluation teams including: evaluating the World Bank fishery program, and FAO's support for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. As Director General of the WorldFish Center (1994-2004), Meryl concentrated the focus of WorldFish on eradicating poverty, improving people's nutrition, and reducing pressure on the environment.

Meryl was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Technology and Engineering (ATSE) in 1993 and awarded an Australian Centenary Medal in 2003. Naturally, she is an 'Outstanding Alumnus' of James Cook University, Australia.

The Crawford Fund is proud to award its 2015 medal to this inspirational woman who gives so much to international agricultural research, through ACIAR and the CGIAR system.