1st International Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014 was successfully completed with more than 30 participants from 12 countries. Countries are namely Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Taiwan, Canada, Micronesia, USA, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Nigeria etc.

There were 19 Oral presentations and 06 Virtual presentations. Due to the Ebola virus issue Sri Lankan government restricted the entry of people who belongs to four African countries. Thus virtual session specially arranged for those delegates, who were interested to deliver their oral presentations.

Moreover there were some local participants who representing Sri Lankan Universities and other professional bodies.

Primary objective of this conference was to create a premier forum for the local and international researchers, scholars and academicians to share their research results in the fields of Fisheries and Aquaculture. We believed that we successfully achieved this objective during the conference. Moreover secondary objective of the conference was to attract high profiled tourists to Sri Lanka and use their knowledge and experience for development of the tourism industry.

As per the schedule, conference was chaired by Prof. J.M.P.K. Jayasinghe and Dr. Tim Dejager. Two key note speeches were delivered by Prof. Shi-Yen Shiau and Prof. K. Pani Prasad.

Conference schedule divided in to 04 main themes namely,

- Nutrition, health management and aqua/marine economy
- Marine Ecosystems and Aquatic Environment Management
- Fisheries governance and promoting aquaculture sustainability
- Marine Fisheries/Aquaculture Science and fish biology

In the awarding ceremony best research paper award won by Dr. Chakraborty Suman Bhusan and best local student paper and best international student paper won by Mr. U.D. Prabuddha Manjula and Mr. Jacky Bhagat respectively. Also organizing committee awarded 03 more awards to best presenters in each session.
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SPEECH BY CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

- Prof. J.M.P.K. Jayasinghe (Senior Professor, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka)
  
  “Coastal Aquaculture in Sri Lanka: Challenges and Solutions”

SPEECH BY CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

- Dr. Tim Dejager (International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada)
  
  “Knowledge, skills and technology for sustainable and inclusive development of aquaculture in Sri Lanka”

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

- Prof. Shi-Yen Shiau (National Taiwan Ocean University, Taiwan)
  
  “Advances and Prospects of Fish Nutrition Research”

- Prof. K. Pani Prasad (Central Institute of Fisheries Education, India)
  
  “Advances in fish health and nutrition management”
POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH WORK

Fisheries and aquaculture are highly developing industry in the world. Main reason for that is the rising demand for the foods in the globe. High percentage from global food demand is filled with this industry. It’s not only fishing industry, aquatic plants are also a developing section. Instead of foods, fisheries and aquaculture field extended to several areas such as ornamental fisheries and etc. With all aspects many people concern how can sustainably utilize aquaculture and fisheries resources. With development of those fields people are highly concern about safety of aqua related foods and other products together with higher production.

Since many scientist in the world, work hard to find answers for fisheries and aquaculture related issues and develop related technologies. In order to make a platform to them for present their findings to the global was a key objective of the ICFA 2014. Although it was a great opportunity for researchers for develop their knowledge, attitude about different new technologies, concepts, research findings related to fisheries and aquaculture field with opportunity to extend their research areas much broad. In South Asian region researchers are hungry with knowledge and also they stuck with the limited opportunity to present their knowledge to the rest of the world. In ICFA 2014, we were given networking opportunity for all participants and it was great succeeding and enhanced their connection throughout the world. So ICFA 2014 was a good opportunity to them as well as a great encouragement to develop existing researches, search for new research areas and importantly share the knowledge with the world.