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Australian Change at the Helm On Global Fish and Aquaculture Research

Australia's international standing in fish and aquaculture research has been strengthened with one notable Australian marine expert to replace another Australian at the helm of a unique international research center involved in research on fisheries and other living aquatic resources - the Malaysia-based WorldFish Center.

Dr Stephen Hall, Director of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in Townsville and Professorial Fellow of Marine Biology at Flinders University in Adelaide, will be leaving Australia in mid-February to succeed Dr Meryl Williams when she completes 10 years directing the renowned organisation.

Dr Hall will be broadening his focus to a mandate that covers fisheries research directed to the eradication of poverty, improvement of people's nutrition in developing countries and reduction of pressure on the environment.

"Australia has a world class track record in fisheries and aquaculture research and has a lot to offer to developing countries through partnerships with WorldFish," said Dr Hall.

"There are also substantial benefits for Australia in working together. For example, many of the environmental concerns that are limiting aquaculture development are as relevant in Australia as elsewhere," he said.

"I look forward to strengthening existing relationships with organisations in Australia such as the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and AIMS," he said.

Dr Hall, educated in Wales and Scotland, is an eminent fisheries scientist and research leader. His many achievements and publications include a recent major book on the effects of fishing on marine ecosystems, which has already become an essential text in this field.

The WorldFish Center is headquartered in Penang, Malaysia, and operates from 11 sites and works in 25 countries in Asia, Africa, the Pacific and Caribbean. It has generated acclaim throughout the world for its work on capture fisheries and aquaculture in developing countries

WorldFish is the only fisheries and aquaculture Center in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a System of 62 donor member countries, multilateral agencies and foundations that support 16 research Centers. The other Centers focus on crops, livestock, trees, water, and policy research.

The WorldFish Center (known also as ICLARM) contributes to food security and poverty eradication through research, partnership, capacity building, and policy support on living aquatic resources. The WorldFish Center is one of 16 Future Harvest Centers and receives its principal funding from 62 governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations known as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Please visit our website at www.worldfishcenter.org