

these objectives, where trade results in an effective driver of environmental stewardship.

“The fact that many of these fisheries have been ongoing at stable levels for generations provides evidence that the resource of aquarium fish, and access to the global market, is a reliable basis for sustainable use. The longevity and reliability of the industry also provides economic assurance to communities, which can be quite meaningful when compared to regions without stable livelihoods, where poverty and hopelessness are widespread. This is likely to have a significant impact where, otherwise, there would be hardship and very threatening circumstances for biodiversity.

“The aquarium industry and its market are subjected to a variety of external influences. A significant force is public perception of environmental impact. IUCN SULi is aware of, and commends, the efforts of Ornamental Fish International and its members to spotlight and promote these examples of fisheries where there are socio-economic and environmental benefits. We look forward to deepening our partnership to promote sustainability and sustainable local livelihoods”.

Valerie Hickey, Practice Manager, Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice, World Bank Group

“The World Bank’s vision is a world free of poverty. As this statement suggests, it is rare that we tackle a problem that is not grounded in poverty.

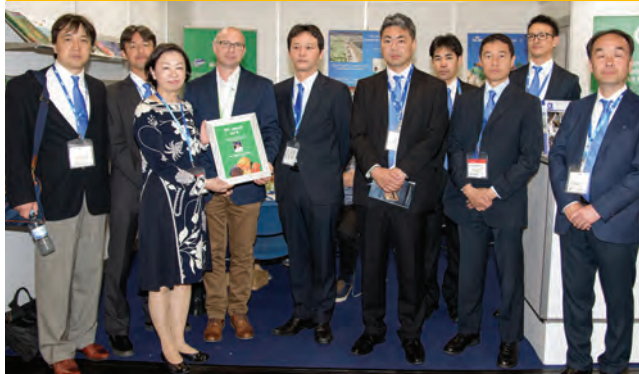
“Saving wild species and wilderness provides food security, generates jobs and revenue flows, and builds resilience against external shocks, or so the theory goes. We are testing this theory at the World Bank. We are committed to promoting and protecting nature as a local and national public good through our capital, convening services and technical assistance. We are committed to making it relevant in the development marketplace of ideas. Truth be told, we simply cannot alleviate poverty by impoverishing – by design or simple neglect – the natural wealth accounts of rural communities.

“I was pleased to hear of the case studies in the aquarium trade in a discussion with Scott Dowd a few years ago at the Word Parks Congress in Sydney. Scott shared the example of *Project Piaba*, where the cardinal tetra fishery in Brazil’s Rio Negro serves as an example of the Bank’s Theory in practice. He explained that this species weighs an average of 0.2 grams at capture.

“It has been documented that, in some years, as many as 40 million cardinal tetras have been captured and exported for the aquarium trade. This amounts to 8,000 kg offtake for a fishery that takes place in an area of 122,476 square kilometers, a very small biological offtake in comparison to the impact on livelihoods. Fishing communities are broadly distributed throughout the region, and the fishery is the primary driver of the local economies. This example of a single species providing a mechanism of income for communities that are cash poor, but biologically rich, falls squarely within the Bank’s Theory”. ■

FURTHER READING

The full texts of the above letters, plus the articles referred to, were published in Issue No. 86, February, 2018, of the *OFI Journal* (official publication of Ornamental Fish International: www.ofish.org)



THE LATE MR. SHIGEZO KAMIHATA AWARDED THE 2018 OFI AWARD

Nuremberg, Germany – May 8, 2018 – Mr Shigezo Kamihata who sadly passed on December 25, 2017 at the age of 91 has posthumously been awarded the 2018 OFI Award for his for his pioneering work for the aquatic industry in Japan and internationally.

His deep passion for fish lead to him founding the Kamihata Fish Group of companies which comprise of farms, import and export, as well as manufacturing of feeds and allied products through Hikari Aquatic laboratory. He was also an adventurer and lead, as well as funded, many expeditions to remote locations around the world gathering information on rare species, as well as discovering new species.

With this award OFI recognises his lifetime contributions of dedication and development of the modern ornamental fish hobby, as well as the inspiration and legacy his group of companies leave to industry and hobbyists around the world.

OFI President Shane Willis presents the OFI 2018 Award to Ms Michiko Kamihata on behalf of her late father Shigezo Kamihata.