Some challenges in capacity building in fisheries

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Issues in fisheries

- World fish supply has shifted from developed countries to developing countries
  - Developing countries contribute about 80% of world supply
  - Expansion of EEZ and aquaculture
- Importance of fisheries in many developing countries
  - for livelihoods
  - food security
  - Important export commodity
- Concerns about the status of important commercial stocks (FAO considers 80% to be fully or over exploited)
- Poor information on status of stocks and limited regulatory capacity in many countries threaten sustainability of fisheries
Ever more complex projects

- 1950s to 1970s: Production oriented, emphasis on fish finding, new stocks improved technologies
- Late 1970s to 1980s: Research and management
- 1980s to present: Aquaculture
- 1990s to present: Quality and safety
- 1990 to present: Increasingly large and complex projects
  - Sustainable development in focus.
  - Ecosystem based approach to fisheries management
  - Multidisciplinary
  - Regional, international cooperation
- 2000 to present: MDGs have dominated the development cooperation agenda; more focus on social issues
Issues of concern

- Reduced proportion of development cooperation budget allocated to fisheries
- Projects implemented in relative isolation from existing administrative structures. Limited flexibility, complex procedures
- Training of counterparts through scholarships, often not directly related to government priorities in fisheries
Possible changes

- Development cooperation projects should be implemented by existing organisations rather than project teams
- Short term interventions, long term engagement, offering opportunities for adaptation
- Relevant training opportunities offered for professionals engaged in the implementation of projects
Mission of the UNU

- To contribute to efforts to resolve pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare through collaborative research and capacity development.
- The UNU-FTP was established in 1998 in response to a growing awareness of the global importance of fisheries.
- Strategy of the UNU-FTP is to strengthen capacity of key institutions involved in the implementation of fisheries development plans.
A response - the UNU-FTP

In Iceland:
• Provides 6 month post graduate training in fisheries, with a strong applied bias. So far 205 fellows from 40 countries have successfully completed the programme
• Offers scholarships to former fellows on a competitive basis for post-graduate degree studies. At present 7 PhD and 2 MSc.

In partner countries
• Engages in the development and delivery of short courses, in cooperation with local, regional and international organisations.
  – 3-5 courses per year over the last four years,
  – profitability assessment, quality inspectors, project cycle management, collection of fisheries statistics and stock assessment, aquaculture, fisheries policy and planning
The challenges?

• The issues and developments indicate that we need to build both individual and collective capacity in development cooperation

• Education is not only an ongoing process of developing knowledge and skills, but more importantly it is also:
  
  – “... an exceptional means of bringing about personal development and building relationships among individuals, groups and nations” (Delors, 1996)
The four pillars of learning

- Learning to be
- Learning to do
- Learning to know
- Learning to live together
Thank you for your attention