



NAFIRRI TO HOST 44th AQUATIC AND MARINE CONFERENCE IN UGANDA

The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMS LIC) will host its 44th annual conference in Uganda from the 21st to the 26th October 2018 at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel Entebbe.

The meeting convenes Librarians and Marine and Aquatic information managers who meet annually to plan and review programs ever since IAMS LIC began in 1975 under the name East Coast Marine Science Librarians (ECMSL). The first meeting was held in Canada and to date the membership has grown to 385 aquatic and marine information centers worldwide.

NaFIRRI Information and Data Centre is a member of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMS LIC) <http://www.iamslc.org/> which encompasses all aspects of aquatic and marine sciences and their allied disciplines. It is on this basis that NaFIRRI was chosen to host the 44th conference, the meeting in Uganda marks the second time it is hosted in Africa with the first hosted by Marine Sciences in Zanzibar-Tanzania in 2011. Host centers benefit by sharing information on aquatic sciences and other aquatic marine information.

The International Cooperation Committee was formed in 1986, under the Chairmanship of Tom Moritz, to promote international cooperation among aquatic science libraries. This one action defined much of the organization's mission in the following years that has seen it grow to attain 385 members.

During the more recent years, IAMS LIC has striven to formalize its goals and organization by promoting cooperation and sharing resources, and more fully facilitate communication among the growing aquatic science community. To date there are six regional groups comprising of the AFRIAMS LIC, Cyamus, EURAS LIC, Grupo Regional Latinoamericano, Pacific Islands, and SAIL.

Among the many programs, the resource sharing program led to the development of the Aquatic Commons shared institutional repository which is hosted by the Florida Center for Library Automation. The Aquatic Commons which is digital repository covering the marine, estuarine and freshwater environments is owned and managed by IAMS LIC and hosted by IODE (International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange). This is a complementary to the OceanDocs repository project in which many members also participate. Both repositories are regularly harvested along with many others into the Avano search engine developed by Ifremer, offering open access to a significant and growing body of full-text documents.

At the conference, the president of the IAMS LIC Dr. David Baca will welcome the delegates who will hold an executive meetings, discuss challenges and best practices of the Libraries, Listen to key note speeches delivered by high profile personalities including the Minister of Agriculture Animal Industry

and Fisheries, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO-ASFA Secretariat) among others. Other presentations will be made by representatives from Inter-Research Science Center.

The African delegates who make up the AFRIAMSLIC will hold a regional meeting and an a post conference training to be held at NaFIRRI in Jinja running from 27th to 31st October 2018.