

Upgraded infrastructure at Cochin Fisheries Harbour Inaugurated

The upgraded infrastructure at Cochin Fisheries Harbour was inaugurated by Prof.K.V.Thomas, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India on 28th January, 2013 at 10 AM. Shri.K.Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Excise, Ports & Fisheries, Govt.of Kerala presided the function. Shri.Tony Chammany, Worshipful Mayor of Cochin, Shri Dominic Presentation, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly and Smt.Celine Peter, Councilor were also present.

Cochin Fisheries Harbour (CFH) was established by the Cochin Port Trust (CoPT) as a Grant-in-Aid Project of Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India in the year 1978-79. A 300 tonne capacity slipway complex was constructed at CFH in 1987. Additional facilities were created during 1992 and 2004 also.

In 2009, Ministry of Agriculture Govt. of India granted of Rs.980.20 lakhs for further up gradation/modernization of infrastructure. These works have been completed by December 2012. Ministry of Agriculture has also accorded approval for dredging work at CFH Basin at an estimated cost of Rs. 220 lakhs on the condition that 50 % of the cost has to be borne by the Port Trust. The dredging work was completed in July 2012.

Brief details of the up-gradation of infrastructure now completed

The up-gradation works of the existing infrastructures and construction of additional infrastructures now completed were taken up with a view of meeting the International standards of hygiene and cleanliness and for assuring fish quality and food safety of the fish handled through CFH. The major items of works carried out under the up-gradation proposal are as below:-

- (i) Improvements to roads and drainage system
- (ii) Renovation works to wharf frontage
- (iii) Construction of a Finger Jetty
- (iv) Construction of ground & overhead water tanks and improvements to water supply lines
- (v) Providing stainless steel fish trolleys and trays
- (vi) Providing power washing facilities
- (vii) Purchase of computers and accessories
- (viii) Providing Stainless Steel Ice Crusher
- (viii) Improvements to auction halls, construction of new facilities such as two fish packing halls cum truck parking area, crates washing station, two storied dormitory building for fishermen, extension to workers shed, providing gates to the entrances of CFH and wharf, renovation of canteen building, tower light structures, net repair shed, toilet blocks, providing deep borewell, resurfacing the entire wharf back up area etc.
 - (i) Construction of effluent treatment plant
 - (ii) Improvements to electrification arrangements.
 - (iii) Dredging the basin in front of the berth.

Future developments

A Master plan for land use in Cochin Fisheries Harbour has been prepared through consultants, which suggests developments to be taken up in a phased manner.

The report recommends following improvements in the wharf area

- (i) Additional Rest room and toilet block
- (ii) Extension of existing net repairing hall
- (iii) Provision of Weigh Bridge
- (iv) Construction of godown and licencing the area for storage of fish crates
- (v) Additional fish gear and net repair shed

Based on the recommendations in the land use plan report, expression of interest has been invited for leasing out 3.8 acres of area at CFH compound for development of fisheries related activities like setting up of Aquarium/ Dolphinarium, Exhibition cum sales counters of sea shell products and other mementos, seafood restaurants serving ethnic sea foods of different regions, Retail fish vending market, Marine business centre etc.