

Cage culture in Hainan Bay, China
COURTESY OF HASSANAI KONGKEO



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This document provides an overview of the global aquaculture status and development trends resulting from a series of regional reviews; Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East and North Africa, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa, conducted by FAO in 2010. The global production of fish from aquaculture has grown substantially during the past decade and aquaculture continues to be the fastest growing animal food producing sector, currently accounting for nearly half of the world's food fish consumption. Over the past decade, a number of developments have contributed to the significant growth of the global aquaculture sector, namely: the formulation and implementation of better policies, strategies, plans and legislation; dissemination and use of applied research; and emergence of new domestic and international markets. Achieving the global aquaculture sector's long-term goal of economic, social and environmental sustainability depends primarily on continued commitments by governments to provide and support a good governance framework for the sector. It is encouraging that the experience of the past decade indicates that many governments remain committed to good governance. As the sector further expands, intensifies and diversifies, it should recognize the relevant environmental and social concerns and make conscious efforts to address them in a transparent manner, backed with scientific evidence. This document discusses the general characteristics and trends of the sector including, among others, the resources, services and technological needs, environmental aspects, markets and trade patterns, food security and economic development issues, information and training opportunities and governance and management challenges of the sector.

