



IOI welcomes the new Executive Director, Dr. Cherdsak Virapat.

Dr. Cherdsak Virapat has taken up his position as of 26th April 2008.



Dr. Cherdsak Virapat was born on the 25th of July 1958, in Bangkok, Thailand. He is married and has one son. After graduating from Kasetsart University, Bangkok in 1981, he received an M.Sc in Fishery Science from the University of Helsinki, Finland in 1986 and a Ph.D in Fisheries Management in 1993 from Dalhousie University, Canada.

From 1982 till present he has occupied the posts of project manager, lecturer and training coordinator and chief of different departments; namely, Department of Fisheries, Public Sector Development Group, Ministry of Natural resources and Environment and International Coordination of Thailand's National Disaster Warning Centre. Since 2000 he served as the Director of the IOI Operational Centre in Thailand.

(Left: Dr C Virapat)

He has contributed many articles on marine biology and fisheries, marine policy development and strategies and on the establishment of marine hazards warning systems.

Dr. Virapat's background, experience and capability correspond well to the type of leadership IOI needs at the present time and he possesses eminent professional and personal qualities. On the professional front he has expanded his skills particularly in the area of marine disasters preparedness and mitigation and capacity building including education and training. As for his personal qualities he has always demonstrated his trademark of humility and determination and human and social competencies. Dr. Virapat expressed his commitment to do his utmost to contribute to the continued advancement of IOI. His responsibility will cover a wide range of areas in IOI and will help to advance the cause of the Institute as well as to realise its purposes and goals for the benefit of all.

We all warmly congratulate and welcome the new Executive Director; we wish him success and augur that he keep up the IOI spirit of friendship and collaboration.

The IOI Network joins him in building a more vibrant IOI.

Dr. Iouri Oliounine, the former IOI Executive Director who will be leaving the Secretariat in July, is pleased to express his gratitude with his own overwhelming emotion for the trust and support of so many during his almost seven-year tenure in the office, and for the honour to be the IOI Executive Director. He emphasised that the years spent in the Secretariat were a rewarding and enhancing experience for him. They were years of hard work that he was trying to carry out with determination and consistency in an open and transparent manner.



He paid a special tribute to the IOI President for his commitment to the legacy of the IOI Founder, mission and ideals of IOI, for his support in the process of reforming the Institute, for his goodwill and friendship over the years during which he has enjoyed working with him. Dr. Oliounine's gratitude was also directed to the staff of the Secretariat. He expressed his long-lasting appreciation and sincere thanks to each member of the Headquarters' team.

(Above: Dr I Oliounine)