We are pleased to announce the realization of the Latin American & Caribbean Aquaculture 2018 - LACQUA18 event, which will be developed together with the VIII Colombian Aquaculture Congress - VIII CCA at the Ágora Convention Center, Bogotá, from October 23 to 26, 2018. These events are organized by the National University of Colombia, the Colombian Federation of Aquaculture FEDEACUA and the Latin American & Caribbean Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society LACC / WAS.

This year is auspicious for aquaculture activity in a new Colombia, which faces challenges where we know that aquaculture is one of the activities that is providing opportunities to weave peace networks, as well as to improve the quality of life and resilience of its population. Thus, we have proposed as the central axis, the AQUACULTURE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PEACE NETWORKS (Aquaculture for peace), where we hope to have the presence of communities and entities committed to aquaculture and peace who give testimony of reconciliation and progress in our region and in the world.
It is also important to highlight that in the last year Colombia has increased its exports of fresh tilapia fillet, becoming the second country in the world exporting fresh tilapia to the United States, standing out for its strengths in the guild field, where the Colombian Federation of Aquaculture has played an essential role in the growth of the sector, empowering fish farmers to produce in a sustainable and competitive way. The continental fish culture is represented mainly by tilapia and trout, as well as by the native species cachama, yamú and bocachico; the aquaculture in Colombia has grown 6.00% in 2016 compared to the previous year and for the last decade 9.01%. During 2016, Colombia allocated 20% of the national production for the export market, with 7722 tons of fresh fillets exported. The fresh fillet concentrates 88% of exports to the United States and Canada. Fedeacua and the National Government support the increase of exportable products offer in order to catalog Colombia as the country that ships to the United States the most, among other products, fresh tilapia fillet. The Colombian production fulfills all international certifications such as ASC, Global Gap and BAP four stars.

It should be noted that Bogota, proud host of these events, is the largest city in the country. Located on the South American Andes, being recognized as a strategic place on the continent, with one of the most important airports in the region, standing out as an international center of business and studies, and starting point to the main aquaculture freshwater and marine production sites.

According to the Greater Bogotá Convention Bureau, Bogotá was admitted by the Best Cities Global Alliance network, of which high-level destinations are considered to host congresses and conventions worldwide; thus, the Colombian capital has joined Berlin, Cape
The ÁGORA International Convention Center is cataloged as the most modern in the country and one of the largest in the region. Thus, in ÁGORA there will be rooms for the presentation of research results (oral and poster), sessions for producers, mini-courses and trade fair, which will be composed of an exhibition area of 72 stands, for national and international providers that will present the latest advances in terms of equipment, supplies and services. There will also be the opportunity to participate in technical visits to fish companies of national recognition. After the success of the previous LACQUA congresses, held in Brazil, Peru and Mexico, we are sure that these events will attract the attention of the industry and the international scientific community.

Works will be received on various topics, among which are the most cultivated aquatic species in Colombia and in countries of the LACC area, with special focus on tilapia, trout, native South American fish and shrimp. Oral presentations, posters and abstracts may be made in Spanish, Portuguese or English. Submission of abstracts may be made until **August 1, 2018** on the event page [https://www.was.org/meetings/default.aspx?code=lacqua18](https://www.was.org/meetings/default.aspx?code=lacqua18)

Information on how to participate as an assistant, commercial exhibitor and sponsor can be consulted at the link [https://goo.gl/ndNBz4](https://goo.gl/ndNBz4) or at [www.was.org](http://www.was.org)
For more details and confirmation of receipt of this communication, please contact:

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We are waiting for your presence in Bogotá!!!

Sincerely,

ORGANIZING TEAM LACQUA18 and VIII CCA

“AQUACULTURE FOR PEACE”

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