

## Trends in the Asian Shrimp Market

Shirlene Maria Anthonysamy  
Trade Promotion Officer  
INFOFISH  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Asian countries contributed nearly 80% to the global farmed shrimp supply that is touching almost 4 million tons. The main players in the continent are China, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. The noteworthy and interesting trend is the strong shift in species farmed. The non-native *vannamei* has taken over the places of native black tiger, *P.chinensis* and *P.indicus* etc. in many shrimp producing countries in Asia. As a result, nowadays, *vannamei* is the major contributor to the growth in regional and global shrimp aquaculture. Lately, India has joined the *vannamei* bandwagon.

Obviously, Asia is the largest shrimp supplier to the international market. Nonetheless, regional demand for shrimp remains strong along with high per capita consumption of fish and fishery products in many Asian countries and markets.

Increasing availability of *vannamei* at cheaper prices is also contributing to the higher per capita shrimp consumption in the region.

China is Asia's number one shrimp market, largely supported by its domestic supplies. However, imports are growing along with rising demand.

The market in Japan has been seriously affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in March which was further weakened by the nuclear radiation scare. Shrimp, a popular food item is currently not a choice with the nationwide observance of austerity, which affected sales during this year's Spring festival.

Recovering faster from the global economic crisis, the non-producing markets - Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea have showed strong import growth last year. Shrimp imports are even growing in some producing countries.