

### SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting hosted by MFRD

From 3 to 5 November 2008, MFRD hosted the Thirty-first Meeting of the Program Committee (PCM) of SEAFDEC in Singapore. The PCM Meeting has been regularly organized by SEAFDEC to review the SEAFDEC programs implemented during the annual period and scrutinize the programs to be implemented in the following year. This is to ensure that the programs are formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. During the discussion, the

meeting emphasized the importance of SEAFDEC programs in supporting the development of the fisheries sector of the region, and particularly suggested that the economic viability should be investigated for the various technologies developed by SEAFDEC; and activities should emphasized on the role of fisheries in enhancing food security and supporting livelihood of people in the region.

the linkages between the existing SEAFDEC programs and the emerging fisheries management issues based on the outcomes from the First RAC Meeting should also be explored to ensure that the activities under the Program Committee and RAC frameworks be complementary with each other, and the benefits to the Member Countries are maximized.



In addition to the program matters (see list of SEAFDEC programs in Page 3), the establishment of the Regional Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RAC) and the outcomes of the first RAC Meeting in September 2008 was also briefly presented. It was discussed and recommended that

Another important step in ensuring SEAFDEC programming exercise to be in line with the regional priority issues, and enhancing the sourcing of budgetary support from non-traditional donors is the adjustment of the Program Framework (originally proposed as Program Thrusts during the 29<sup>th</sup> PCM). The proposed program framework would be finalized by SEAFDEC in close consultation with the Program Committee prior to submission to the 41<sup>st</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2009 for consideration and endorsement.

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### ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP Meeting convened in Singapore

Back to back with the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting, the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 6 to 7 November 2008 in Singapore; and was co-chaired by SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, and Mr. Sanchai Tandavanitj, on behalf of the current Chairman of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>). The Meeting has the main objective of discussing the programs and activities implemented under the ASSP Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism, the progress

and activities under the ASSP, as well as the policy considerations on important issues.

SEAFDEC has since 1999 established an ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism with ASEAN to enhance the cooperation among the two organizations on fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region. In 2008, the collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC has been formalized through



the signing of the LOU of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership by the

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## EDITORIAL

During the year 2008, SEAFDEC highlighted its activities on several important areas in line with the priority of the Member Countries. The importance of the fisheries sector in contributing to food security and people's livelihood has been one of the important agenda not only in the region but worldwide. SEAFDEC has therefore implemented several activities, e.g. supporting sustainable coastal fisheries management and strengthening local organizations in managing fishery resources, improving quality of fish and fishery products, developing/transferring aquaculture technologies appropriate for the remote, rural areas, etc. In particular, with support from the ASEAN Foundation, SEAFDEC also started a series of HRD activities for relevant fisheries officers of the Member Countries aiming to alleviate poverty and enhancing food security through the use of fisheries intervention. Also organized during the quarter was the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, in which SEAFDEC has taken part and publicized the roles and importance of small-scale fisheries of the region including the agreed common-position by the Member Countries.

SEAFDEC also emphasized several activities in ensuring sustainable utilization of marine resources. Highlighted activities include those on conservation and management of sea turtles, fishery resources surveys which also accommodate the research and sighting survey of Cetacean species, etc. In November, the annual SEAFDEC Program Committee and FCG/ASSP Meetings were organized to ensure that the regional priority issues be properly taken up through the SEAFDEC programs and activities.



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You can also send your comment  
on our Newsletter to  
[secretariat@seafdec.org](mailto:secretariat@seafdec.org)

## AQD @Philippine agri-fairs

AQD participated in the AgriLink/FoodLink/AquaLink 2008 exhibition held at the World Trade Center - Manila from 9 to 11 October. AQD showcased its products (publications and hatchery fry) and services (technical assistance and training programs) to a wide range of clientele who visited the exhibit. In addition, AQD presented a seminar on breeding and grow-out of abalone upon the invitation of DA-BFAR.

AQD next participated in the statistical exhibit organized by National Statistics Office. The exhibit opened 7 October and ran for 10 days at Robinson's in Iloilo City.

And finally, AQD joined the 45<sup>th</sup> Fish conservation week: fisheries exhibit and product fair that was organized by BFAR-

Fisheries Industry Development Support Division from 19 to 25 October at the Quezon City Memorial Circle. AQD was able to show its fervent cooperation and support for the ideals of environment protection. There, SEAFDEC's efforts and contributions to the aquaculture industry were publicly acknowledged by BFAR.



*AQD exhibits booth*

## DOF Thailand hosts the IMT-GT Fisheries Seminar and Expo (Continued from Page 16)

the Thai Chamber of Commerce, from 20 to 23 November 2008 in Phuket, Thailand.

As part of the event, the IMT-GT Fisheries Seminar was organized from 20 to 21 November 2008; and was participated in by representatives from governmental agencies. The importance of the seminar has been emphasized in providing a platform for exchanging of information on various aspects of fisheries and fisheries-related industries among countries in the IMT-GT sub-region. Important topics presented and discussed at the Seminar included Policies pertaining to fisheries cooperation promotion in IMT-GT sub-region; Aquaculture Farm Standard; Fisheries Resources Management and Conservation; Joint Venture in Marine

Fisheries; Possible Cooperation on Ornamental Fish; and Fish processing for household and factory. Apart from presentations and panel discussions, a business forum was also arranged to facilitate fishery dialogue among the esteemed private sectors from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

During the Seminar, the Policy and Program Coordinator of SEAFDEC Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon, presented the geographical coverage, the topographical environment, and the status of fishery resources in the IMT-GT sub-region, i.e. the demersal and pelagic resources, including the demersal resources in the untrawlable grounds, small/large pelagic fish, large oceanic squids, etc., based on the outcomes from the fishery resources surveys conducted by SEAFDEC.





## SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting hosted by MFRD (Continued from Page 1)

### List of SEAFDEC Programs to be implemented in 2009

#### Departmental Programs

- 1) Center-wide Information Network (Secretariat)
- 2) Information and Communications Technology (TD)
- 3) Tailor Made Training and Study Tour (TD)
- 4) Integrated Mollusc Production (AQD)
- 5) Mud Crab and Shrimp Domestication (AQD)
- 6) Marine Fish (AQD)
- 7) Small-holder Freshwater Aquaculture (AQD)
- 8) Seaweed Strain Improvement (AQD)
- 9) Aquatic Ecology (AQD)
- 10) Other R&D Activities (AQD)

#### ASEAN-SEAFDEC ASSP-FCG-Programs

- 1) Support to the Implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Secretariat)
- 2) Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues (Secretariat)
- 3) Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management (TD)
- 4) Improvement of Fishery Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
- 5) Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature) (TD)
- 6) Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses (TD)
- 7) Development of Technologies and Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture (AQD)
- 8) Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries (MFRD)
- 9) Environmental Related Tasks in Southeast Asia (Secretariat)
- 10) Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals (AQD)
- 11) Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia (MFRD)
- 12) Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement of Species under International Concerns (AQD)
- 13) Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD)
- 14) Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty (TD)
- 15) Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
- 16) Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2 (TD)
- 17) Deep Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia (TD)
- 18) Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea (MFRDMD)
- 19) Promotion of "One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)" System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
- 20) Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters (TD)
- 21) Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management (TD)
- 22) Human Resource Development (HRD) for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)

#### Non-funded ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG-ASSP Programs


- 1) Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement
- 2) The Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
- 3) Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries
- 4) Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries
- 5) Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries

#### Other Programs

- 1) Promotion of Set-Net: an Eco-friendly Fishing Gear of Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management
- 2) Information Collection for Economical Important Species: as Surimi Raw Materials
- 3) Cetacean Research in Southeast Asian Waters: Whale Sighting Program
- 4) Promotion of Sustainable Freshwater Aquaculture for Rural Communities
- 5) Promotion of Inland Small-scale Fisheries Management through Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Approaches

## ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG-ASSP Meeting convened in Singapore (Continued from Page 1)

ASEAN and SEAFDEC during the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AMAF in 2007, and led to the ASSP-FCG arrangement starting from this year. Thus, this FCG/ASSP Meeting was considered an important venue in following-up actions to the directives given at the Meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN Bodies related to fisheries; deliberating on the ASSP programs for the year 2008 and 2009; and discussing policy considerations on important issues that require regional proactive action and follow-up by SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member Countries as well as several important issues of the region.

The progress of several activities were particularly discussed at the Meeting, i.e. the cooperation in the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector, the establishment of ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM - now renamed as the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum or AFCF); the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA); and the establishment of the ASSP Portal Website based on the recommendations made at the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting in 2008. Several important issues with implications to fisheries sector of the region were also discussed, i.e. climate change and its impact on fisheries and aquaculture; implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Southeast Asia; fish trade related issues, e.g. the EU Catch Documentation and Fisheries Subsidies; Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification; poaching of sea turtles; and the Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries. The recommendations from the FCG/ASSP Meeting would be further submitted to the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) to be held in 2009 for consideration and endorsement. 

# DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

## NIF Ecuador and AQD to collaborate on marine fish aquaculture

Having very similar goals of responsible aquaculture/fisheries, AQD and Ecuador's National Institute of Fisheries (NIF) signed an agreement on 3 December 2008 for a two-year collaboration to establish aquaculture facilities (eg. multi-species marine fish hatchery/nursery and demonstration grow-out ponds & cages) and to conduct training (also on marine fishes) in Ecuador. NIF is allocating over US\$350,000 for AQD's technical assistance on species/site assessment, among others. ✕

*Agreement signing in Iloilo: Research Head Dr. EG Ayson, AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo, NIF General Director Mr. John Gumbs and Administration-Finance Head Atty. J Opinion*



## Host country Philippines calls on AQD expertise

On 6 November 2008, AQD attended the last Public hearing on the proposed policies and standards for Master of Science in Fisheries (MS Fi) at the invitation of the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The hearing was held in Quezon City.

AQD was again invited to the Consultative forum for National Integrated Basic Research Agenda

organized by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCF) that was held on 7 November in Pasay City.

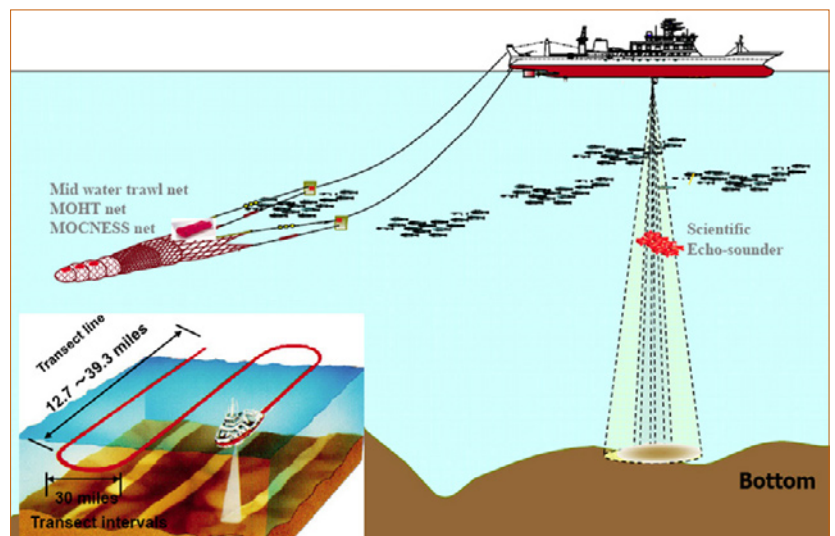
In addition, AQD staff were invited to two technical meetings in the Philippines: At the First National Summit on Saline Tolerant Tilapia held at Dagupan City from 2 to 3 October where an AQD researcher moderated a session.

And at the 16<sup>th</sup> Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc. (PSM) - Visayas Chapter Annual Meeting and Scientific Convention held from 16 to 17 October in Murcia, Negros Occidental where two scientists delivered plenary lectures, three technical assistants presented papers, another three presented posters, and another four were on the organizing committee. ✕

## Joint Fisheries Resources Survey by TS/KOYO MARU in Central Vietnam

SEAFDEC in collaboration with the National Fisheries University (NFU), Japan conducted a joint Fisheries Resources Survey in cooperation with the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF) of Vietnam using the Training Ship, TS/Koyo Maru from 7-18 November 2008. The survey aimed to assess the distribution and abundance of small pelagic fisheries resources by means of hydro-acoustic survey in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), particularly in the central part of Vietnam. Also, biological samplings by Midwater trawl, MOHT, MOCNESS net and oceanographic survey using CTD were also conducted to support the hydro-acoustic surveys. Two researchers from RIMF/VN and one SEAFDEC staff, joined the survey. The information

and data collected from this cruise were shared to the host country and SEAFDEC, while the results are being analyzed. ✕



*Survey diagram to assess the distribution and abundance of small pelagic fisheries resources by means of hydro-acoustic survey*



## AQD conducts short courses in the Philippines


The training on basic shrimp health management was conducted by AQD for the staff of, and at, the new Aquatic Health Laboratory of DA-NFRDI (Department of Agriculture-National Fisheries Research and Development



*AQD's short course on fish health at NFRDI (left); French trainee (above)*

Institute) in Dagupan City from 24-30 August 2008.

The training courses on fish health management and culture of natural food organisms were offered from 3 to 30 October at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station (TMS) in Iloilo. There were two trainees for the former and one for the latter. Trainees were from Saudi Arabia and China.

The course on the methods of bacterial isolation and identification from 24 to 27 November at TMS has one French national attending. 

## AQD staff attends conferences in four countries

During the last quarter of 2008, AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo was in China for two meetings. First at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center (FFRC) of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences in Wuxi on 29 October 2008 to discuss recent developments in aquaculture research which directly affects, and may apply to, farmers; possible fields of research and training activities between the two institutions; and strategies to ensure the efficient exchange of trainees and research staff. Then at the 9<sup>th</sup> NACA (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific) technical advisory committee meeting or TAC9, also in Wuxi, from 30 October to 1 November. TAC9 was hosted by the Freshwater Fisheries Institute, NACA's Regional Lead Center in China. The objective of the meeting was to formulate the Work Plan for regional aquaculture development for the period January 2009 - December 2011.


Also in China were Fish Health Expert Dr. Celia Pitogo and Training Section Head Ms. Kaylin Corre. Both attended the Global Technical and Trade Conference on Shrimp that was held 6-8 November in Guangzhou. This conference was organized by FAO, the FishInfoNetwork, the Ministry of Agriculture - PR China and other government & private entities in China.

In Singapore, AQD scientist Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia presented a paper on the Perspectives on the role of developing states in the sustainable use and management of marine genetic resources in global oceans at the Workshop on Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Management Issues and Policy Options which was organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands among others. This was from 3 to 5 November. Dr. Eguia also discussed the roles of SEAFDEC and AQD as a moving force in the sustainable use of marine fishery genetic resources in SE Asia by promoting responsible fisheries through the implementation of the Regional Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

In Japan, at the World Fisheries Congress held from 19 to 24 October in Yokohama, Dr. Toledo, Dr. Eguia and Dr. Edgar Amar presented papers. Their papers, respectively, are on (1) Institutional capacity development for sustainable aquaculture and fisheries: strategic partnerships with local institutions; (2) Research initiatives on the domestication and genetic improvement of freshwater prawns (*Macrobrachium* spp.) in the Philippines; and (3) Immunological approaches for preventive management of WSSV in

tiger shrimp. Another AQD scientist, Mr. Armando Fermin presented a poster on Donkey's ear abalone, *Haliotis asinina* (L): hatchery, aquaculture, and prospects of sea ranching in the Philippines. AQD's participation was made possible through the support of GOJ-TF.

Also in Japan was AQD Fish Health Scientist Dr. Leobert de la Peña who, together with Dr. Amar attended the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the Japanese Society for Fish Pathology that was held 18-19 October in Tokyo. Dr. de la Peña presented a poster on the multiple viral infections in the wild black tiger. Meanwhile, AQD Socio-economist Dr. Nerissa Salayo attended the UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) training workshop series on sea and human security that was held 27 September to 3 October in Hiroshima.

In Thailand, AQD researcher Ms. Didi Baticados and Dr. Salayo attended the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries held 13-17 October in Bangkok. The said conference was organized by FAO Rome in collaboration with the host Government of Thailand and its Department of Fisheries, SEAFDEC and the WorldFish Center. 

## TD participates in international seminar in Japan

Five TD staff participated in the Scientist Exchange Program under JSPS-NRCT Core University Program and the 5<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Congress in Japan from 18 to 26 October 2008. Five representatives from TD, Mr. Aussanee, Mr. Bundit, Dr. Phattareeya, Dr. Taweekiet and Dr. Natinee participated in Scientist Exchange Program under JSPS-NRCT Core University Program

organized by Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) in collaboration with Kasetsart University, DOF and SEAFDEC. Moreover, they also took the opportunity to join the 5<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Congress organized by WCFS, JSFS, FRA and Science Council of Japan in Yokohama from 20-24 October 2008. During the seminar, four presentations were made by the

TD staff on Set-Net fishing technology transfer for sustainable coastal fisheries management in Southeast Asia, by-catch and discards on trawl fishing, age and maturation of the tropical and temperate loliginid squids in the Andaman Sea of Thailand and Moroiso Bay of Japan, and poster presentation on an approach to fish school detection around the Set-Net site by using Echo-sounder and Sonar.



## Awareness skills and experience in fishery for university students

TD organized the University Student Training Course on Fishery Resource and Fishing Community from 20-28 October 2008 at the Training Department. Forty five students from eight universities studying fisheries attended the training course aiming to develop their skills and experience in fishery. As part of the training course, the students conducted a study tour and observed the fishery resources and the fishing communities around Bangpakong River. Moreover, the

practice on fishing operations and oceanography was done at sea in Rayong Province. TD hopes the students can apply the new experience from the training course to their work in the future.



*The practicals on fishing operation during the university students training*



## TD joins national and international fishery exhibitions

TD joined two fishery exhibitions organized by the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand and Kasetsart University. The international fishery exhibition, IMT-GT Expo 2008, was organized by DOF from 20 to 23 November 2008 in Phuket. This exhibition promoted the collaboration in capture fisheries and fishery trade between Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. TD presented the TD activities under the theme “Fishery Technology

with Environment Friendly”, specifically promoting the TEDs, JTEDs, Circle hook longline. The second exhibition was during the Kaset Kamphangsan Fair organized by Kasetsart University from 3 to 10 December 2008 at Kamphangsan campus, Nakhonpathom Province, Thailand. TD presented fishing gear technology for purse seines, longline with circle hook, TEDs and JTEDs as well as the TD projects and activities.



*Visitors at the SEAFDEC booth at the IMT-GT exhibition in Phuket Province, Thailand.*

## A visitor from JIRCAS

Dr. Satoshi Watanabe, a senior researcher at JIRCAS (Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences) visited AQD from 28 to 31 October 2008 to discuss the feasibility of a research project on co-culture of shrimp and sea cucumber in collaboration with SEAFDEC. Dr. Watanabe and AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Hiroshi Ogata toured the hatchery of the UPV-DOST sea cucumber seed production and the stock enhancement project (a collaboration with SEAFDEC and GOJ). They also visited Talotoan and other nearby islands in Concepcion, Iloilo and to Igang, Guimaras to observe and gather data on the natural habitat as well as the existing species of sea cucumber in the area.





## TD collaborates with Vocational Education Commission on training course for students

The Four-month Training Course on Fishing Vessel Operation was started on 6 October 2008. TD in collaboration with the Vocational Education Commission of Thailand organized the Training Course for 13 students from Tinsulanonda Fisheries College, Songkhla Province from 6 October 2008 to 27 February 2009. The training course aimed to provide skills to students and share with them the experiences of TD experts which they can use for their work in the

future. The training course consisted of six subjects, namely: Ship Construction and Stability, Marine Communications, Laws and Regulations on Navigation, Navigation Technology Practices, Marine Machinery Technology and Practices, Fishing Gears Technology and Practices. Moreover, as part of their practical training, the students had hands-on experience and practice onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V.Plalung.



*Tinsulanonda students in the engine workshop*

## Japan Fishery National University visits TD

The “Koyo Maru”, a training vessel of the Fishery National University of Japan was docked at the TD pier from 26 November to 1 December 2008.

Seventy one students including staff from the National Fishery University visited TD on 27 November 2008, where TD welcomed them and were presented the TD activities and given a tour of the TD training facilities.



*The Japanese students from Koyo Maru visited TD and observed TD facilities*

## GOJ Trust-funded projects reviewed

On 9 and 10 December, proponents and reviewers of Government of Japan Trust Fund projects gathered in Iloilo City to review the work progress for 2008 and present plans for 2009.

The proponents attending the meeting included scientists and research staff from AQD, RIA-2 of Vietnam, Inland Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute of Thailand, and Research Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture of Indonesia.

The external reviewers were Dr. M Sano (Director of Fisheries Research Agency, Japan), Dr. EC Lacierda (Kagoshima University), Dr. LMB Garcia (University of the Philippines Diliman) and Dr. C Baylon (UP Visayas). They congratulated the study leaders for their “great efforts in implementing the studies as planned.” Since 2009 is the last year of the GOJ-TF 4, they also urged the proponents to establish an information

network and share the results of the studies. The manual on viral nervous necrosis (VNN) is one of the awaited results. There would also be the revised textbook on aquatic animal health, revised manual on diseases of penaeid shrimps, new manual on fish nursery, and proceedings of the 2007 international workshop on fish disease. Already in press are two manuals: Identification of Commercially Important Freshwater

Prawns, and Seed Production & Grow-out of Mudcrab in Vietnam.

Dr. Hiroshi Ogata, AQD Deputy Chief and GOJ-TF manager of aquaculture projects, was also pleased with the progress of the three projects which cover: (1) development of fish surveillance system; (2) development of technologies and human capacity building for sustainable aquaculture; and (3) stock enhancement for threatened species of international concern.

The GOJ-TF team is working on VNN and other viruses like WSSV; an “indigenous” probiotics; chemical residues in aquaculture; shrimps & prawns, freshwater prawn, mudcrab, sea cucumber, abalone, angelwing clam, giant clam; rice-fish culture; *Kappaphycus*, sea bass, seahorses, humpback wrasse; and socio-economic analysis of stock enhancement and technology adoption.



*Dr. Sano of FRA; and attendees to the review-planning meeting*

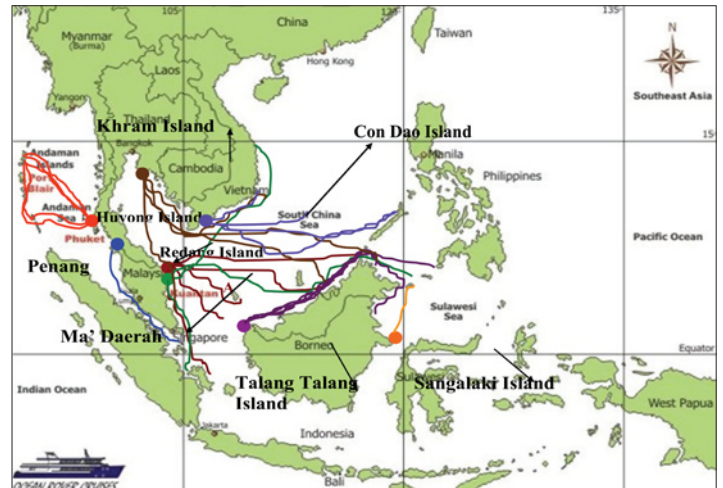
# SPECIAL REPORT

## Research on Stock Enhancement of SEA TURTLES in Southeast Asia

Starting from 2004, MFRDMD has implemented a program on “Research on the Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles” with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund. The program is expected to complete in 2008. The program covers the studies on sea turtle tagging and satellite telemetry, sea turtles stock identification, and detection on multiple male paternities.

### Regional Sea Turtle Tagging and Satellite Telemetry Studies

Under the SEAFDEC Sea Turtle Research Program, conventional Inconel Tags and Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Tags (or microchip tags) have been used by MFRDMD in conducting the sea turtle tagging surveys. Inconel Tags had been continually used in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam; while PIT Tags had also been used as supplements tags in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines. In addition to tagging, satellite telemetry study had also been conducted from 2005 to 2008. The objectives of the tagging and satellite telemetry studies are to determine the migration routes, the inter-nesting and foraging habitats, as well as other relevant biological information of sea turtles in the region.



*Migration Routes of Green Turtles (Chelonia mydas) obtained through the Satellite Telemetry Studies (above); and Suspected Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles based on Satellite Tracking Studies of Sea Turtles in Malaysia (below)*

### Third Regional Consultation on Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles in Southeast Asia

The Third Regional Technical Consultation Meeting of the JTF IV program was held from 15-17 October 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss the outcomes of the activities implemented from 2004 to 2008 and plan the activities to be implemented in 2009 and onwards. The Meeting was attended by participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam; and representatives from SEAFDEC-Secretariat, SEAFDEC-TD and SEAFDEC-MFRDMD. Resource persons were invited from Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Department of Fisheries Malaysia and Marine Research Foundation, Malaysia. The Meeting was also attended by observers from DOF Malaysia, IOSEA, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and WWF-Malaysia

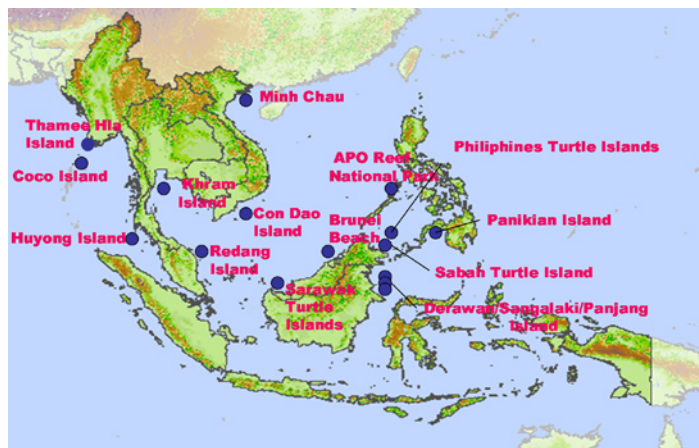
*Third Regional Consultation on Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles in Southeast Asia*





## Identification of Sea Turtles Stock/Population in Southeast Asia

The regional analysis on stock identification of green and hawksbill turtles in the Southeast Asian region had been conducted by MFRDMD. The main objective of which is to detect subpopulations of nesting green and hawksbill turtles in Southeast Asian region, and to identify the genetic markers of different management units. As for green turtles, the tissue samples were gathered from 14 sites throughout the region. For hawksbill turtles, 136 samples were collected from 9 sites (nesting beaches). The results suggest that the green turtles in the region could be grouped into 12 management units (subpopulations). However, no conclusive result could be made to the hawksbill turtle population due to the small sample size.



Sampling sites of green turtle in the Southeast Asia (above) and sampling sites of hawksbill turtle in the Southeast Asia (below)

## Conclusion

- 30 haplotypes were detected of which 11 was published by Moritz et al. 2002 and 19 are new.
- Dominant haplotypes are C3, found at all samples sites except Enu, Indonesia and Panikian Island, Philippines. C3 dominant haplotype for Pengumbahan (17/23), Redang (42/73), Paka (14/15), Pahang (8/12), Perak (13/15), Sipadan (24/40), Tameahla (18/30), Coco (17/30), Huyong (10/19), Kham (15/30), Vietnam (51/53).
- Due to limited samples, the output of this study will not give a true figure of hawksbill population genetic.
- 3 haplotypes are shared between nesting beach and 12 haplotypes are unique to individual rookeries and in Melaka, no haplotype diversity

## Detection on Multiple Paternities of Green Turtles

Study on Detection of Multiple Paternities of Male Green Turtles was also conducted by MFRDMD at Mak Kepit Beach, Terengganu. The objectives are to determine the level of multiple paternity and to estimate adult male stock sizes at nesting beaches in Redang Island, Terengganu. A total of 300 tissue samples of hatchlings green turtle from 10 nesters in Mak Kepit beach, Redang Island of Terengganu, Malaysia had been analyzed through DNA microsatellite marker. The DNA microsatellite marker can be used to determine whether all the hatchlings in a nest have the same father or different fathers. Single father will present one to two paternal alleles, while clutches with three to four paternal alleles represented offspring from a mating between one female and two male turtles. If more than four paternal alleles were present, the clutch was assumed to have a minimum of three fathers.



Location of 12 genetically distinct breeding stocks or management units of green turtles (Exact test of sample differentiation based on haplotype frequencies Raymond M. and F. Rousset. 1995).

# REGIONAL PROGRAMS

## HRD ON poverty alleviation and food security

TD with the support of the ASEAN Foundation organized the Regional Training Course on Responsible Fishing Technology under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC program on Human Resource Development on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security from 18 to 27 November 2008. The participants were fishery officers or working in related areas from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, and who are working closely with local fisheries communities. It was anticipated that following the completion of the training course, the participants

should function as the national Focal Points of this program and to work closely with SEAFDEC/TD for the conduct of on-site training courses on HRD for responsible fishing technology in their respective countries.

The course focused on responsible fishing gear and practices, fabrication of appropriate fishing gears and a small-scale insulated fish box to improve the quality of the fish catch, safety at sea, and use of sail to reduce the cost of fishing investment by cutting down on

fuel oil expenses as well as reduce pollution from oil discharged into the water. The course also covered new approaches to responsible fisheries extension, its concept and methodologies as well as appropriate technologies that would be

used during the conduct of on-site HRD activities in selected countries. Moreover, an important component of the regional training course was an observation on the use of alternative energy for fishing boats and demonstration on the use of alternative energy for fishing boats, and the gears/operations of responsible fishing technology such as collapsible crab traps, the use of excluder devices for juveniles and trash, the use of bottom vertical long-line, etc.

Also arranged during the training course was a consultation workshop which focused on the issue of responsible fisheries through experience and case studies presented by each participant. Discussions on the principle, criteria, proper manners and appropriate technologies for the conduct of the onsite HRD activities in different countries, and preparation of the best-fitted and practical proposal for on-site HRD activities were also conducted.

*Trainees practicing JTEDs installation*



## AQD conducts training in Myanmar and Cambodia

At the behest of the GOJ Trust Funded Regional Program, AQD went to Cambodia and Myanmar to conduct on-site training on fish health and mudcrab culture.

AQD scientists Dr. Gilda Lio-Po and Dr. Rolando Pakingking, Jr. were tapped to be the resource persons in the basic training on freshwater and marine fish health management in Cambodia. The training was held September 22-24 for freshwater fish and September 25-27 for marine fish. Participants were mostly fisheries officers from the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of Cambodia.

For Myanmar, AQD scientists Dr. Emilia Quintio and Dr. Fe Estepa

travelled to Yangon to conduct training on mudcrab farming for 64 participants, and to visit potential sites for crab farming from 7 to 11 October. AQD scientists gave an overview of mudcrab

industry, and lectured on identification and biology, broodstock management, larval rearing, natural food production, pond preparation, nursery rearing, grow-out, etc.



*A visit to a soft-shell mudcrab farm in Yangon*



## AQD conducts rural aquaculture training under the HRD program

AQD has successfully conducted the rural aquaculture thematic area of the training of trainers, from 10 to 19 November 2008, under the project HRD on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN region that is implemented by SEAFDEC as a center-wide project and supported by the the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund of the ASEAN Foundation.

AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo warmly welcomed the participants, saying that AQD is responsible for the HRD thematic area on rural aquaculture, and it is offering all of its packaged technologies which are products of 35 years of research work.

These technologies, along with AQD's extension strategies, were later presented by 20 AQD senior staff as the training progressed. Eight participants from SEAFDEC member-countries finished the course on 19 November.

Another four graduated with them – one was an invited participant from AQD's Northern Samar project and the other three were students from Maejo University (Chiangmai, Thailand) who are undergoing on-the-job training at Tigbauan Main Station. After the course, the next task of the eight participants, now fully considered trainers, is on-site training on their choice of technology for the fisherfolk community they have chosen in their home countries. The participants also conducted participatory

rural appraisal of a land-locked but water-rich Dumarao and the coastal Igang community.

The technology selected by the trainers of Thailand, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Indonesia to be "echoed" is freshwater aquaculture. Myanmar chosed to focus on mudcrab and Malaysia on shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) and ornamental fish. The Philippines and Cambodia preferred combinations of freshwater and marine fish cage farming. ❖

*HRD trainees on rural aquaculture: putting together the community transect map after interviewing key informants to get a good feel of the community*



## End of Project Meeting on Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination

From 22 to 24 October 2008 in Singapore, MFRD organized the End-of-Project Meeting for the project on "Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish and Fish Products" supported by the Japanese Trust Fund. The project aimed at providing capacity building activities for relevant fisheries officers in the Member Countries to analyze heavy metals, pesticide residues, histamine

and drug residues in fish products, and conducting contaminant survey; the results of which is has also been published and disseminated during the end of 2008.

Through the project implementation from 2004 to 2008, 9 training courses were conducted. A total of 106 fisheries officers from key laboratories of 9 ASEAN member countries were

trained in histamine, pesticide residues, heavy metals and drug residues (chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, malachite green and leuco-malachite green) analytical methods. Under the survey component, the survey results from 2004-2008 showed that contaminations of heavy metals, pesticide residues, histamine and drug residues in majority of the samples were within regulatory limits.

During the Meeting, the representatives from Japan also gave lectures on "The Risk Management of Chemical Residues in Farmed Fish Products" and the "Food Safety System in Japan". In addition, the Meeting also discussed on the project to be implemented by MFRD from 2009 to 2012 (also supported by the Japanese Trust Fund), particularly on the needs and current capacity of SEAFDEC Member Countries to be used as a basis for the implementation of such project. ❖



## R&D on selective fishing gear and devices for reduction of discards and by-catch

Assessment activities of the implementation of JTEDs in Indonesia and Malaysia under the TD R&D on selective fishing gears and devices for reduction of discards and by-catch of juveniles and trash in the region were carried out from 7 to 11 October 2008 and 18 to 23 November 2008, respectively. TD staff, Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan, Mr. Suppachai Ananpongsuk and Mr. Weerasak Yingyuad followed up the evaluation and assessment of the implementation of JTEDs project in Jakarta and Bogor, Indonesia in collaboration with Bogor University, Directorate General of Capture Fisheries (DGCF) and Maura Research Center. The proposed implementation of the JTEDs project in 2009 with support from the Japanese Trust Fund in conjunction with the FAO/UNEP/GEF Project on Reduction of By-catch (Phase II) was discussed with Indonesian officers during the assessment trip. Moreover, preparations for Impact of Fishing Workshop planned to be organized in December 2008 at the Training Department and the Fishing Gear Catalogue of Indonesia to be produced under the activities on fishing gear and methods in Indonesia, were also discussed.

From 18 to 23 November 2008, TD staff Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan and Mr. Suppachai Ananpongsuk conducted an assessment of the implementation of JTEDs in Malaysia under the activities on the research and development of selective fishing gears and devices

for reduction of discards and by-catch of juveniles and trash in the region (Malaysia). The objectives of the mission were to: follow up the evaluation and assessment of the implementation of the JTEDs project in Malaysia, discuss the activities on the implementation of JTEDs project proposed for 2009 with support from the Japanese Trust Fund, discuss with Malaysian officers the workshop on "Impact of Fishing" to be organized at SEAFDEC Training Department, and discuss the proposed collaboration between SEAFDEC/TD with NATC (National Agricultural Training Center) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Industry (MoA), Malaysia. During the discussion on the follow up activities, technical assistance in the implementation of JTEDs and selective fishing gears project in Malaysia in cooperation with Department of Fisheries Malaysia and MFRDMD will be continued in 2009 under Japanese Trust Fund, with the SEAFDEC/TD focusing more on JTEDs evaluation and assessment and socio-economics study. Other selective fishing gear and methods will be handled to supplement the JTEDs activities by both Malaysia and TD in order to address the concern on the reduction of discards and by-catch. Under the collaboration between SEAFDEC/TD and NATC, TD will support the development of human resources of NATC, specifically for its officers in 2009 and onwards. The MOU between SEAFDEC and NATC, Malaysia will be proposed in 2009 for further development.

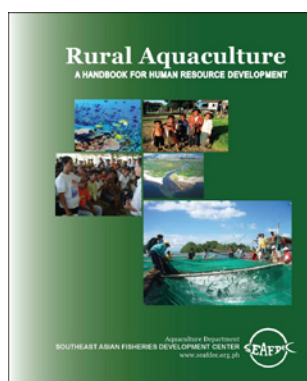
## On-site training in Myanmar and Philippines

From 14 to 16 November 2008, TD in coordination with the DOF of Myanmar organized the On-site Training Course for the Introduction of C-hook for Bottom Longline at the Institute of Fisheries Technology in Yangon, Myanmar. The main objective of training course was to promote the use of C-hook for bottom longline to SEAFDEC Member Countries. Thirty-five participants attended the training course, which started with the presentation on the construction of a longline. Participants also practiced the construction of the bottom longline with C-hook and J-hook alternately set, under the guidance of SEAFDEC staff. Moreover, a demonstration was implemented along the Irrawaddy River near the Institute of Fisheries Technology compound.

In the Philippines, TD in close coordination with BFAR also organized the On-site training for Tuna Handling Onboard Handline Bancas from 10 to 11 December 2008 at the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority Complex in General Santos City. A total of 44 participants attended the training course, which aimed to support tuna handling and its industry in General Santos City, and provide appropriate tuna handling and preservation techniques to the target groups.

### Limited Edition!

Rural Aquaculture a handbook for human resource development is a 308-page book produced by AQD detailing the science-based technologies that AQD has developed in the past 35 years. It covers freshwater and marine fish culture; fish nutrition and fish diseases; and AQD's extension methodologies. This first Advanced Reading Copy was produced for the SEAFDEC-ASEAN project on Human Resource Development



*Visit of the tuna packaging site was an activity of the on-site training*



## Training course on Fishery Management for the SEA

TD organized the Regional Training Course on Co-management Using Group User Rights for Enhancing Small-Scale Fisheries Development and Management from 27 October to 7 November 2008 at the Training Department in Thailand. The twelve-day training course aimed to promote and strengthen the participants' understanding on the concept and regional guidelines for co-management using group user rights for small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia. The training was also envisaged to enable the participants to apply in practice the concept of coastal fisheries management as well as to provide clarification on the importance, objectives and application of the regional guidelines in strengthening small-scale fisheries to promote coastal fisheries management. The training also aimed to facilitate the sharing and exchanging of experiences and views on small-scale fisheries and in strengthening coastal fisheries management. Ten participants from Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam who have the potential and are responsible for small-scale fisheries development and/or coastal fisheries management

or having experiences in the current fisheries management system or co-management, attended the course. The training course comprised the following subjects/activities: lecture and research proposal design on the introduction and background of co-management for small-scale fisheries management, lessons learned and experiences on co-management from Japan and Southeast Asian countries, scope and characteristics of co-management and the role and function of Parties Concerned in co-management, fisheries co-management mechanism, and implementation of co-management, participatory method of co-management in promoting small-scale fisheries, introduction of right-based fisheries towards fishing rights and designated area practice, institution building of the community fisheries

cooperation, financial sustainability of the Community Fisheries Management Organizations, SEAFDEC projects related to coastal fisheries and co-management, and research proposal design. Moreover, a field trip/study tour was organized to visit a site practicing co-management, small-scale fisheries or community fisheries institution. The expected output of the training course is to promote the regional guidelines, to largely comprehend and apply the guidelines in practice for coastal fisheries management in the ASEAN member countries, and to strengthen the participants' capacity to make use of the guidelines to proceed and develop small-scale fisheries and institutions on coastal fisheries management. ☒

*The participants discussing with the fisherman on co-management, small-scale fisheries or community fisheries institution*



## Training Workshop on Cetacean Research and Sighting Survey on M.V. SEAFDEC2

Recently, large cetaceans such as whales are often observed in the coastal habitat in the Southeast Asian waters. In response, TD initiated a program on Cetacean Research in the Southeast Asian Region with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. Implemented during 2008-2012, the main objectives of the program are to gather data and

information on species composition of cetaceans such as whales, dolphins and porpoise in the Southeast Asian waters, and investigate the interaction between the existing cetaceans and the small pelagic resources.

However, as the existing information on cetaceans species in the Southeast Asian waters and the human resources capacity to conduct the activities are still very limited, TD therefore organized a training workshop on Cetacean Research and

Sighting Survey from 21 to 30 November 2008. The Workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of SEAFDEC researchers on the identification of cetacean species, and conduct cetacean sighting survey during the SEAFDEC research cruises. Two Japanese experts on cetacean research; Prof. Dr. Hidehiro Kato from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, and Dr. Hideyoshi Yoshida from Fishery Research Agency were invited as resource persons to provide basic knowledge on the species identification and the proper sighting survey on board research vessels. The knowledge and experiences gained from the workshop is expected to be further transferred to the Member Countries to support the future program implementation. ☒

*Participants and resource persons of the training workshop on Cetacean Research and Sighting Survey*



# FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer
<b>2009</b>			
12-15 January	Samut Prakan, Thailand	1 <sup>st</sup> Expert Meeting and Regional Workshop on the Reduction of the Impacts of Fishing Gear in Coastal and Marine Environment in the Southeast Asian Water	TD
12-21 January	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Local/Indigenous Institution and Co-management (HRD Activities on Thematic Area)	TD
12-21 January	Malaysia	HRD Training of Inland Fisheries Development	MFRDMD
20-22 January	Honolulu, USA	Technical Workshop on Minimizing Sea Turtle Interactions in Coastal Net Fisheries	IOSEA
26-30 January	Rome, Italy	Technical Consultation to draft a legally-binding instrument on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (FI-807) (resumed session)	FAO
28-29 January	Bangkok, Thailand	National Workshop on the Development of Status and Trends for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture (STF) in Thailand	Secretariat
30 January	Bangkok, Thailand	Workshop on Certification and Eco-labelling	SEAFDEC-Sida
1-3 February	To be confirmed	Regional Forum on the MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative	MRC
4-18 February	Philippines	Hands-on training on fish health management	AQD
9 February	Bangkok, Thailand	SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting	Secretariat
10-12 February	Bangkok, Thailand	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries Related Issues	Secretariat
17-19 February	Brisbane, Australia	29 <sup>th</sup> Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation	International Sea Turtle Society
23 Feb-13 Mar	Philippines	Training on freshwater aquaculture	AQD
24-26 February	Bangkok, Thailand	Sub-Regional on Gulf of Thailand Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sida
2-6 March	Rome, Italy	COFI - Committee on Fisheries - 28 <sup>th</sup> Session	FAO
3-11 March	Singapore	Regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Backyard Fishery Post-harvest Technology	MFRD
5-6 March	Bangkok, Thailand	5 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium on SEASTAR2000 and Asian Bio-logging Science (The 9 <sup>th</sup> SEASTAR2000 Workshop)	SEASTAR
9-11 March	Rome, Italy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network	FAO
9-11 March	Rome, Italy	Meeting on Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation in Fisheries and Aquaculture & WorldFish and QUEST_Fish Scenario-building Workshop	FAO
10-24 March	Philippines	Training on cage/pond culture of high-value fishes (grouper/ snapper/seabass)	AQD
22-26 March	Lao PDR	1 <sup>st</sup> HRD Workshop for the Promotion of "One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)" in Lao PDR	Secretariat
23-24 March	Bangkok, Thailand	Preparatory Meeting for ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum	DOF/Sida
25-27 March	Bangkok	Vessel Record and Inventory	SEAFDEC-Sida
7-10 April	Fukuoka, Japan	41 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	Secretariat
14 Apr-5 May	Philippines	Training on crab hatchery and grow-out	AQD
4-8 May (tentative)	Lao PDR	2 <sup>nd</sup> HRD Workshop for the Promotion of "FOVOP" in Lao PDR	Secretariat
11-15 May	Manado, Indonesia	World Ocean Conference 2009-"Climate Change Impacts to Oceans and The Role of Oceans to Climate Change"	WOC
12-14 May	United Arab Emirates	RECOFI -Regional Commission for Fisheries - 5th Session	RECOFI
19 May-24 Jun	Philippines	Training on marine fish hatchery	AQD
June (tentative)	To be confirmed	Meeting of the Sub Regional: Andaman Sea	Sida
3-23 July	Philippines	Training on abalone hatchery and grow-out	AQD
23-27 November	Manila, Philippines	East Asian Seas Congress 2009	EAS



## SEAFDEC Information Staff meet in Singapore

From 30 October to 1 November 2008 MFRD hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Information Staff Exchange Program Meeting (ISEP) in Singapore with the participation of the senior officials of SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and MFRD as well as information staff from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD, MFRD, AQD, and MFRDMD. SEAFDEC has annually organized the ISEP Meeting to review the information activities of SEAFDEC and exchange views on various information-related aspects among the SEAFDEC Information Officers. In addition, the forum is also envisaged to facilitate the planning and monitoring of activities undertaken by SEAFDEC to enhance the organizational information, communication and visibility in accordance with the SEAFDEC Information Strategies adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2006.

During this 9<sup>th</sup> ISEP Meeting, the progress in the implementation of the Information Strategies by SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments in 2008 was reviewed to enhance the information activities as well as the visibility and communications of SEAFDEC. In addition, the priority actions (in addition to the on-going activities) for all departments to consider in the future implementation of each Strategy, as well as information-related activities to be implemented in 2009 were also identified and discussed. The ISEP participants also visited the Asian Media Information and Communication Center (AMIC) at the Nanyang technological University (NTU), where a briefing on the status of the mass media in Southeast Asia was made by the Secretary-General of AMIC; and a discussion on how to improve/assess the SEAFDEC activities and visibility to the public was made. The participants also visited the National Library of Singapore to observe the activities and the modern technologies adopted by the Library. The visits enabled the information officers to observe the library management practices as well as network with their information counterparts. ❏



*ISEP Participants visiting the National Library of Singapore*

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*The SEAFDEC Newsletter publishes quarterly news on all aspects of fisheries in Southeast Asia. The Editors reserve the right to accept and/or abridge articles based on available space. Anyone wishing to submit an article to the SEAFDEC Newsletter is requested to send it to the Editor in Chief or Editors at the given addresses.*

*Information in this Newsletter may be quoted only if reference is made to SEAFDEC.*

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## SEAFDEC takes part in the Small-scale Fisheries Global Conference

In recent years, the issue of small-scale fisheries as an important contributor to food security and poverty alleviation has been receiving growing attention. Recognizing the importance and complexity of the small-scale fisheries sector, from 13-17 October 2008 SEAFDEC and the WorldFish Center collaborated with FAO and the Department of Fisheries Thailand in organizing the “Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries: bringing together responsible fisheries and social development” in Bangkok, Thailand, with the participation of nearly two hundred people from countries all over the world.

Aimed to generate improved knowledge on the factors supporting social development, establishment of sustainable livelihoods and use of responsible fisheries approaches in the small-scale fisheries sector, and conduct a synthesis of key issues to secure small-scale fisheries and enhance their contribution to food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development; the conference was divided into panels focusing on three main themes: Securing sustainable resource use and access rights; Securing Post-Harvest Benefits; and Securing social, economic and human rights; with working group sessions to generate inputs from participants. The



*SEAFDEC Secretary-General delivering his remarks during the reception dinner (above left); SEAFDEC booth exhibiting the activities relevant to the promotion of sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Southeast Asian region (above right); and the conference participants joining the study tour program to visit a green mussel farm (right)*



outcomes from the Conference are now accessible at [www.4ssf.org](http://www.4ssf.org).

As part of the SSF Conference, SEAFDEC also arranged an exhibition booth to display the activities of SEAFDEC relevant to the promotion of sustainable small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia, and disseminate the relevant publications and information materials. A one day post-conference study tour was organized for the Conference participants on 18 October 2008. The study tour had three programs, namely: Program 1 for a visit to a small-scale fishing community around

Bangsarae Village, Chonburi Province; Program 2 for a visit to a small-scale fishing community in Bang Taboon Village, Petchaburi Province; and Program 3 for a visit to a small-scale fishing community around the mouth of the Tha Chin River, Samutsakorn Province. The thirty participants, who joined the TD post-conference study tour, were impressed on the small-scale fisheries development in Thailand and specifically gained knowledge on the status of small-scale fishing communities in Thailand. ❖

## DOF Thailand hosts the IMT-GT Fisheries Seminar and Expo

Since the establishment of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) in 1993, the IMT-GT Member Countries have strived to achieve the ultimate goal of enhancing the economic growth and improving the standard of living and quality of life of the people in the IMT-GT sub-region. In 2007, the IMT-GT leaders' commitment for the improvement of people's well-being has been strengthened through the endorsement of the IMT-GT Roadmap 2007-2011. To further accelerate the implementation of the IMT-GT

Roadmap particularly in enhancing the cooperation in fisheries development in the sub-region, the IMT-GT Fisheries Seminar and Expo 2008 “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Prosperity in the IMT-GT” was organized by the Thai Department of Fisheries, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and



*(Continued on Page 2)*