

Forty-first SEAFDEC Council Meeting held in Fukuoka, Japan

SEAFDEC organized the 41st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Fukuoka Japan, from 7 to 10 April 2009. The Meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC Council Directors together with their respective delegations; and observers from the ASEAN Secretariat and the FAO/RAP. In addition, the inauguration ceremony of the Meeting was officiated

by the Prefectural Governor of Fukuoka, Mr. Wataru Aso, and the Mayor of Fukuoka City, Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida.

After the inauguration ceremony, the achievements from the activities implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments during the year 2008 were reported to the

SEAFDEC Council; while the outcomes from the annual meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management (RAC) as subsidiary bodies of the SEAFDEC Council were also reported. The Council, while reaffirming the important role of SEAFDEC in undertaking activities to develop technologies geared towards sustainable fisheries development of the region, supported SEAFDEC in its efforts to continue implementing activities that would address the emerging concerns and issues in fisheries, e.g. the impact of the economic downturn in countries in the region, the international fisheries related issues that have implications to fisheries activities, the adoption of measures to comply with requirements imposed by importing countries to ensure food safety and sustainable fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.



Participants of the 41st Meeting of SEAFDEC Council during the inauguration ceremony

(To be continued on Page 2)

SEAFDEC participates in the 17th ASWGFi Meeting

SEAFDEC Secretary-General and senior officials of SEAFDEC participated in the 17th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) held from 3-5 June 2009 in Hoi An, Vietnam, where several issues relevant to SEAFDEC were presented and discussed during the Meeting.

In addition to the adoption of the Report of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) as well as the programs to be implemented under the FCG-ASSP Mechanism in

the year 2009; the ASWGFi stressed on the importance of activities in inland/freshwater areas, and urged SEAFDEC to continue the implementation of relevant activities, particularly the Regional Training Workshop on “Community-based Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast Asia” which was annually conducted by SEAFDEC since 2007.

Several non-funding FCG-ASSP programs, i.e. Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries, and the Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and

Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region, were also discussed, and SEAFDEC was requested to explore opportunity to source funds for the implementation of such programs. In addition, taking into consideration the current limited budget on HRD activities, SEAFDEC was also request to consider and explore the possibility of developing e-learning to enhance HRD activities in fisheries.

During the Meeting, the ASWGFi also took note that the ASEAN-FAO

(To be continued on Page 3)

EDITORIAL

From April to June 2009, several important events have been organized by SEAFDEC, one of which is the annual SEAFDEC Council organized in Fukuoka Japan, where the summary of SEAFDEC activities undertaken under the program framework, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group framework, as well as the RAC framework, were presented to obtain policy directives from the Council on the respective issues. In particular, areas that are of concern of the region include the international fisheries related issues that may have implication to fisheries in the region, and the importance of fisheries contribution to food security and livelihood of the people. In this regard, SEAFDEC is therefore planning to organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security towards 2020. In addition during the Council Meeting, the new SEAFDEC program framework with a revision of the overall SEAFDEC mandate was also adopted by the Council as means of consolidating and streamlining the programs/projects implemented by SEAFDEC in the future.

Another area with very much progress made is the promotion of One Village One Fisheries Products (FOVOP), of which the national activities have been conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Lao PDR; and would be conducted in Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam by the end of this year. In addition, for the strengthening of fisheries management mechanism in the region, the first Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum was organized in Hoi An, Vietnam, where discussions were made on several regional fisheries management issues, and the clusters of activities to be focused by the ASEAN countries toward addressing the issues.



SEAFDEC Newsletter is available at
www.seafdec.org.

You can also send your comment
on our Newsletter to
secretariat@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC takes part in the ASEAN-FAO Conference on Food Security

On 27-28 May 2009, representatives from SEAFDEC participated in the ASEAN-FAO Conference on Food Security held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Conference was attended by ASEAN Member States and several ASEAN dialogue partners and donor agencies e.g. World Bank, ADB, etc. in order to discuss collaboration in the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework which was endorsed by the 14th SUMMIT in February 2009, and requires implementation in 2009-2013.

To support the implementation of AIFS Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action (SPA), SEAFDEC proposed potential areas for implementation based

on SEAFDEC technical disciplines. The potentials for financial support from the ASEAN dialogue partners could be on programs relevant to Food Security, Climate Change, and Responsible Fisheries Practices in the ASEAN Region. In this connection, SEAFDEC Secretariat would coordinate with relevant Departments to develop project proposals to be submitted, with support from ASEAN, to the ASEAN Dialogue Partners. The proposals are envisaged to cover the areas of 1) Strengthening Food Security Arrangement; 2) Promote Sustainable Food Production; and 3) Identify and Address Emerging Issues Related to Food Security (e.g. adaptive measures to mitigate impacts from climate change to food security).



Forty-first SEAFDEC Council Meeting held in Fukuoka, Japan (Continued from Page 1)

During the Meeting, the important fisheries-related issues were also brought up for discussion. These include the Promotional and Following up Program on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia, the International Fisheries Related Issues, the EC Regulation to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing): Catch Certification Scheme, the FAO Legally-binding Instruments on Port State Measures for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, the Aquaculture Certification, the Small-scale Fisheries Issues, the Adaptive Measures to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change to Fisheries and Aquaculture, as well as Fisheries Subsidies.

The Council also approved the concept proposal in the organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference

on Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards 2020, recognizing the need for the Member Countries in furthering the development of sustainable fisheries and its contribution to food security, poverty reduction and accommodating the new emerging issues in the region.

Another important outcome from the SEAFDEC Council Meeting is the adoption of the new SEAFDEC Program Framework, under which the SEAFDEC mandate was also revised to "To develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities". It is envisaged that the new SEAFDEC Program Framework would further consolidate and streamline the programs/projects implemented by SEAFDEC to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the programs, minimize implementation costs and maximize the benefits to Member Countries.



National HRD Workshops on the Promotion of One Village One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)

In improving livelihoods and alleviating the poverty situation through the activation of the economic activities in fishing communities, SEAFDEC with financial support from the ASEAN Foundation, is implementing a two-year project on the Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP)” System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region. The Regional Strategy for the Promotion of FOVOP has been developed under the project, and used as basis for the conduct of a series of HRD Workshops on the Promotion of FOVOP in the ASEAN Countries.

During the first half of 2009, four HRD workshop sessions had been

conducted in Cambodia (19-20 May 2009), Indonesia (15-19 June 2009) and in Lao PDR (23-27 March 2009 and 4-8 May 2009). As planned, HRD sessions will also be conducted in Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam during the second half of 2009. The National HRD Workshops involved both the government officials and community people targeted at awareness building on the Regional Strategy for the Promotion of FOVOP with discussion and comments to accommodate the concerns and issues applicable for respective country. In addition, the workshops also provided knowledge and enhance capacity of participants particularly the local communities people on important subjects that useful to support the

promotion of FOVOP in their countries i.e. Role of Women in the Promotion of FOVOP, Community-based Credit System in Fisheries Sector, Linkage of Community-based Credit System and Micro Group Business, Traditional Product Processing for the Promotion of FOVOP, Introducing/Promoting Good Handling Practices (GHPs), Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) for traditional fishery products, Financing Program for Fisheries, etc. And finally, each country identified potential FOVOP products and communities for further promotion and implementation of FOVOP after the regional project completed. ✦

Three AQD scientists are honored

Three AQD scientists were recently recognized in the national scene for their impressive track records in their respective fields.

Dr. Joebert Toledo, a marine fish scientist, was awarded the Outstanding Professional of the Year (Fisheries Technologist) by the Professional

Regulation Commission (PRC) on June 19 in Manila. PRC noted that his professional competence was of the highest degree, including his significant contribution to the advancement of the profession by sharing his expertise and knowledge.

Dr. Jurgenne Primavera, AQD's scientist emerita, was honored by the University of the Philippines (UP) Alumni Association as one of its Distinguished Alumni Awardee for Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development on 20 June at UP Diliman. Dr. Primavera was cited for being “a tireless champion of replacing



Dr. JD Toledo with his family



Dr. JH Primavera (holding trophy) with the UP Chancellor at her right (top); and Dr. R Pakingking Jr (leftmost) with his co-honorees (above)

(To be continued on Page 7)

SEAFDEC participates in the 17th ASWGF Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Conference on Food Security held on 27-28 May 2009, in Bangkok recognized the important role and contribution of fisheries to food security. The ASWGF therefore supported that the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable

Fisheries Development Towards 2020 should be organized (in 2011 and hosted by Thailand) to develop the regional policy framework and priority actions relevant to fisheries and food security of the region, and the Conference should be considered as part of the implementation of the ASEAN Food Security (AIFS) Framework.

To follow-up to the discussion made at the ASWGF, SEAFDEC organized the SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting from 25 to 26 June 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The issues rose by the ASWGF were discussed, and the required actions by SEAFDEC Secretariat and relevant Departments were also elaborated. ✦

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

AQD projects on mudcrab and milkfish farming move on to second phase

A maxim that ran true for AQD is this: a successful first project can be assured of a funding extension for the purpose of benefitting more people.

In the first one, AQD and its partners Action for Community Empowerment (ACE) Inc. and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) made plans on 27-29 May 2009 in Catarman, eastern Philippines, for the second phase of the Northern Samar project on Mariculture Enterprise Development. The new phase will again be funded by the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) and the Community Agricultural Technologies Project (CATP).

The decision to expand the mudcrab project came on the heels of attaining the target survival rate of 40% of mudcrab nursery at the three project sites. Laoang, Pambujan, and Rosario in Northern Samar had 46%, 70%, and 54% survival rate, respectively. The first phase will close later this year with the preparation of an illustrated manual on mudcrab nursery. The second phase will focus more on grow-out.

Similarly, four Guimaras communities affected by the 2006 oil spill are giving

AQD's milkfish cage farming an extended run. The second phase will now involve fisherfolk who were not accommodated in the first phase. This milkfish project is again a collaboration among AQD, Petron Foundation Inc, Citi Foundation, local government units (LGUs) in Guimaras, and four organized communities. It calls for AQD to provide technical support and transfer science-based technologies in milkfish cage rearing. For their part, Petron and Citi will provide funding support (US\$ 50,000), with the LGUs providing legislative and other logistical support.

The second phase was officially launched on 23 April, and the season-long training course commenced soon after. The first topical module of the training, on post-harvest and marketing module, was conducted on 21-22 May for three communities; the fourth community is scheduled to train on this topic in September 2009. The second topical module was conducted on 25-26 June for the first three communities and 30 June to 1 July for the fourth community. The topics included sustainable aquaculture



Meeting of AQD and partners in Northern Samar, Philippines (top); and a community learns how to add value to milkfish in an AQD course (above)

and milkfish cage culture and practical on net cage fabrication and water quality monitoring. A demonstration grow-out run was also begun.

To date, the two topical sessions bring the total fisherfolk trained to 122.



AQD trainees on marine fish come from six countries

Nine participants from six countries took part in AQD's course on Marine Fish Hatchery which ran from 18 May to 23 June 2009. Four participants came from the Philippines while one each came from Germany, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Myanmar. Lectures and practicals covered a diverse array of topics such as sustainable aquaculture, fish biology, natural food production, hatchery design and management, nutrition and feeds, water quality monitoring, health management,

economics, post-harvest, and marketing. Aside from the lectures and practicals, the participants also visited several private hatcheries in Iloilo, Philippines. ❖

Trainees on marine fish listen to instructions on how to get egg samples by cannula from a fish broodstock



AQD builds a backyard hatchery to demonstrate the concept of multi-species fish and abalone hatchery

AQD completed the construction of a marine fish and abalone backyard hatchery at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo, Philippines. The backyard hatchery has an area of nearly 900 sq. m and is meant to demonstrate the concept of multi-species fish and abalone hatchery.

As AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo noted, "We would like one facility to be multi-use and multi-functional. When we limit the extent of land for aquaculture and share equipments, we make responsible use of limited resources, not to mention increase the

revenue of small-scale hatchery operators in SEAFDEC member-countries."

In addition to showcasing AQD technologies, the backyard hatchery will produce and sell reasonably priced abalone juveniles and marine fish fry and fingerlings to grow-out farmers. The marine fish hatchery area is capable of producing 10,000 to 100,000 fry or fingerlings per run; while the abalone hatchery area can produce 20,000 to 25,000 juveniles per month. Should a hatchery operator build a similar design, his investment cost is about Php 1 million.

The marine fish area can raise milkfish, seabass, grouper, pompano, snapper and rabbitfish. It has 6 units of 10-ton circular larval rearing tanks (LRT), 10 units of 10-ton circular natural food culture tanks (NFT), and 12 units of 2-ton circular nursery tanks (NT). LRT and NFT are made of rubberized canvas with marine plywood support while NT is made of concrete.

The abalone area on the other hand has 6 units of 10-ton rectangular settlement tanks, 4 units of 5-ton rectangular diatom culture tanks, and 4 units of 10-ton rectangular secondary nursery tanks.



AQD's new backyard hatchery in the Philippines will demonstrate the concept of multi-species hatchery

In addition, each hatchery area has its own independent pre-filtered seawater supply system with 2 HP centrifugal pumps and 1 HP roots blower for aeration. The hatcheries also have concrete drain pits and main canal for harvesting and drainage. Both areas share common harvest and work areas, storeroom, equipment room, and roof structure.



AQD trains community on sea and human security

The Training workshop on development of local capacities in sea and human security in coastal communities in the Philippines was organized by AQD and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with support from the United Nations Institute For Training and Research (UNITAR) Bannai Small Grants Fund. The workshop was held in collaboration with the local government units of Masbate City and Culasi, Antique last 15-16 April and 28-29 April 2009, respectively, with a total 100 participants. In both venues, the first day focused on a series of lectures on the sea and human security, starting with the key concept and principles of the UNITAR-Hiroshima Initiative and then linking these concepts to local

issues. The second day focused on the Participatory Action Plan Development (PAPD) that allowed each participant to cast his/her vote in prioritizing problems and building consensus for problem solving. Priority problems included

floods, land subsidence, reclamation areas, low income from fishing; and lack of supplemental livelihood, medicine and electricity. Solutions were evaluated in terms of technical, financial and institutional feasibility.



Community training on sea and human security in the Philippines

AQD is working with China FFRC, Tohoku University and University of Arizona

AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo and the FFRC/CAFS Director Dr. Xu Pao signed an agreement on 14 May 2009 in Wuxi, China to renew their respective institutions' partnership for the next two years. FFRC/CAFS is the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences. The agreement calls for both parties to conduct research studies on feed development and disease control, genetic improvement of prawn and tilapia, water environment for aquaculture activities, and socioeconomics. Training activities

and staff exchanges are also covered. On 5-13 June, three AQD staff went to Wuxi for exploratory talks with FFRC/CAFS staff.

In related development, AQD scientist Dr. MRR Eguia was hosted by the Onagawa Field Science Center (OFSC) in Tohoku University, Onagawa, Japan from May 8 to June 3 when she analyzed shrimp and mud crab samples for her study on microsatellite marker variation. Despite the absence of an official agreement between AQD and

Tohoku University, the OFSC faculty, led by Dr. Eguia's former professor Dr. Minoru Ikeda and thesis evaluator (now TU Vice President) Prof. Akihiro Kijima, allowed the use of their laboratory at no cost. Aside from lab work, Dr. Eguia was able to discuss plans for areas of research collaboration as OFSC is strong in population and/or evolutionary genetics work.

Meanwhile, AQD scientist Dr. Celia Pitogo has completed her five-month Fulbright Senior Scholarship (Jan-June) that allowed her to conduct research on "Ensuring sustainability of the Philippine shrimp industry through effective health management of native and introduced shrimp" at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, USA. As part of her program, Dr. Pitogo was also able to extend her expertise to students of the University of Rhode Island through lecture / seminar / meetings with students, faculty and research staff.



Shaking hands over the extension of their partnership are AQD Chief JD Toledo and FFRC/CAFS Director Xu Pao with NACA's Dr. Sena de Silva in the middle as witness

TD joins international exhibition in Indonesia

TD joined the International Ocean Science Technology & Industry Exhibition 2009, which was organized from 11-15 May 2009 in Indonesia as part of the World Ocean Conference 2009. The exhibition covered various aspects related to the ocean including ocean sciences, marine products, marine technology, ocean survey, marine industry, ocean services, marine tourism and marine finance and insurance. During the exhibition, TD disseminated the information on projects implemented by TD, as well as other SEAFDEC promotional materials, to visitors. An Open House of the M.V.SEAFFDEC 2 was also conducted at Bitung Port, 70 km. from Manado, Indonesia, with more than 100 visitors including students and interested people of Indonesia.



TD joins the integrated sea farming project

SEAFDEC Training Department, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, conducted demonstration project on the feasibility of integrated sea farming in Ban Laem District, Phetchaburi Province, in response to the initiative of Her Majesty the Queen Sirikit. The objectives of the project are to develop sea farming activities that are harmonized with the surrounding natural environment, and to improve the fishing occupation of the fishermen in the area by introducing

new technology and exchanging of experiences among fishermen. The preliminary duration of the project is two years. In this regard, SEAFDEC is planning to conduct raft rope experiment aiming to integrate floating rope cage for shellfish and sea grass culture. On 21 April 2009, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn privately visited the project area to follow up the progress and planning of the project implementation.



Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj explaining the model of a sea farm as a demo project by SEAFDEC/TD, to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

AQD conducts training for Rwanda on freshwater fishes

A two-phase training course on freshwater aquaculture was conducted by AQD for ten staff members of the Rwanda Workforce Development Authority (RWDA) from 7 May to 19 June 2009. The training course was commissioned by the Singapore-based Acrux Stella Education Group Pte. Ltd. which handles projects in Rwanda.

While the training covered four commercially important tropical species, emphasis during field/farm visits was given to tilapia and catfish which are common to both Asia and Africa. The first phase of the training course was a three-week skills training in freshwater fish breeding and farming while the second phase was industry immersion training involving three weeks of internship on freshwater fish hatchery and lake-based pen/cage farming operations.

Phase 1 of the training consisted mainly of lecture and practical sessions on basic and advanced technologies in genetics, broodstock development and management of freshwater fish/crustacean species. Apart from the

sessions held in AQD, the participants were also taken on field trips to visit tilapia science centers in Nueva Ecija, Taal Lake for tilapia cage culture, and catfish ponds in Bulacan; all in northern Philippines. Phase 2 was conducted at several private farm sites where the trainees learned milkfish cage/pen operations, carp hatchery operations, fish transport, and fish processing.

The training course was aimed at raising the overall knowledge of the RWDA staff in freshwater aquaculture in order to increase the productivity of fish farming in freshwater lakes in Rwanda.



A trainee from Rwanda happily holds a big bighead carp

AQD trains regional experts on crab hatchery and grow-out

Starting on April 14 and ending May 5, the training course on Crab Hatchery and Grow-out was conducted by AQD with nine participants and two observers. One was from Kenya, one from Malaysia, six from the Philippines, two from Singapore, and one from Myanmar. The

training provided the participants with technical skills and knowledge in crab seed production and grow-out (with emphasis on *Scylla serrata*) so that the participants can establish and/or operate a crab hatchery and learn nursery and grow-out techniques.



The first priority when training at AQD is the technical session but there can be a rare occasion to witness Filipino culture in action. Crab hatchery trainees were on their way back from AQD's Igang Marine Station when they came upon Guimaras' Manggahan Festival

Three AQD scientists are honored

(Continued from Page 3)

unsustainable aquaculture practices with sustainable one.”

Dr. Rolando Pakingking Jr, a fish health scientist at AQD, was conferred as a Diplomate of the Philippine Academy of Microbiology (PAM) on 15 May 2009, also in Manila. PAM diplomates are chosen for their exceptional track record in the academe or industry and for their enterprise and creativity in initiating and advancing microbiology-based endeavors.

AQD is cited for best research on stock enhancement

The Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST) recognized AQD's research work by giving it the prestigious 2009 Dr. Elvira O. Tan Memorial Award on Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries. The award-winning paper is entitled “Evaluation of hatchery-based enhancement of the mud crab, *Scylla* spp. fisheries in mangroves: Comparison of species and release strategies” and is authored by Dr. Junemie Leбата, Dr. Lewis Le Vay, Dr. Mark Walton, Mr. Joseph Binas, Dr. Emilia Quintio, Mr. Eduard Rodriguez and Dr. Jurgenne Primavera.



AQD's award-winning researcher Dr. JH Leбата at work

SPECIAL REPORT

Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish and Fish Products 2004-2008

From 2004 to 2008, MFRD organised, conducted and successfully completed the Japanese Trust Fund II Project on 'Research and Analysis of Chemical Residues and Contamination in Fish and Fish Products.'

Chemical contaminants and drug residues in fish and fish products causes serious implications to trade and human health. Thus this project was proposed because of a need to gain an understanding of current levels of chemical contaminants and drug residues in fish and fish products and to build the capacity for detection of these residues in the region. With science-based knowledge and capability, respective countries could take appropriate action to manage the safety of their fish and fish products.

The objectives of this project were:

- i) To obtain an understanding of levels of chemical contaminants in fish and fish products in Southeast Asia;
- ii) To transfer technology in chemical contaminant testing in the region through setting up of methodologies and human resource training.

The project was made up of four components as follows:

- a) Component 1: Survey of Heavy Metals (Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead and Total Mercury) in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia
- b) Component 2: Survey of Pesticide Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia
- c) Component 3: Survey of Histamine Levels in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia
- d) Component 4: Survey on Drug Residues (Chloramphenicol, Nitrofurantoin, Malachite green and Leuco-malachite green) in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia

For each component, there were two activities, on-site training sessions at project sites where analytical equipment are available for conducting training, followed by a regional survey which was conducted in SEAFDEC member countries. A total of 8 countries, namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, participated in this project.

On-Site Training

The purpose of the on-site training was to upgrade the skills and capabilities of regional laboratory staff in using the Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS) for heavy metals analysis, the Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) for pesticide residues analysis, the High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) for histamine analysis and the Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS-MS) for drug residue analysis. The execution of the respective surveys was facilitated

through the upgrading of skills and capabilities of regional laboratory staff.

Through this project, 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, nitrofurantoin, malachite green and leuco-malachite green) analytical methods. The participants expressed that the training sessions conducted were beneficial to their work. Through this regional training course, member countries shared their experience and their methods.

Regional Survey

Various participating regional laboratories conducted a survey each in their respective countries on fish and fish products that were of socio-economic importance.

Fish and fish product samples were sent to local/collaborating laboratories for analysis and the results of the survey were deposited in the database of the Fish and Fish Products Safety Information Network. In addition, to ensure the accuracy and comparability of the different analytical methods used by member countries, member countries participated in Inter-laboratory Proficiency Testing for test methods.

During the 'End-of-Activity' Seminar conducted from 22-24 October 2008 in Singapore, the key project leaders presented the survey results from 2004-2008 on heavy metals, pesticide residues, histamine and drug residues. A total of 186 species and/or products were studied with a total of 4,902 samples collected for analysis from 2004 to 2008.



Participants at the Regional Training Course in Seafood Safety for Laboratory Personnel in Thailand

Lists the training courses conducted under the project:

S/No	Title of Training Course	Date of Training Course	Location of the Training Course	Number of Participants
1.	On-site Training in Heavy Metals Analysis	1-8 July 2005	Indonesia	12 (from Indonesia)
2.	On-site Training in Heavy Metals Analysis	7-11 November 05	Myanmar	13 (from Myanmar)
3.	On-site Training in Heavy Metals Analysis	28 August to 1 September 06	Vietnam	11 (from Vietnam)
4.	On-site Training in Pesticide Residues Analysis ¹	6-15 June 05	Singapore	8 (from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam)
5.	On-site Training in Pesticide Residues Analysis	27 November to 1 December 06	Malaysia	12 (from Malaysia)
6.	On-site Training in Histamine Analysis ²	16 to 20 May 05	Indonesia	14 (from Indonesia)
7.	On-site Training in Histamine Analysis ³	25 to 29 September 06	Philippines	12 (from the Philippines)
8.	Regional training course in seafood safety for laboratory personnel ⁴	15 to 19 August 05	Thailand	16 (from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam)
9.	Regional training course in seafood safety for laboratory personnel ⁵	2 to 5 October 07	Singapore	8 (from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam)

From the results of the surveys conducted on heavy metals, pesticide residues, histamine and drug residues, the majority of the results were within regulatory limits.

End-of-Activity Seminar

The project ended with the 'End-of-Activity' Seminar which was conducted from 22-24 October 2008 in Singapore where key project leaders reported on the project since its implementation in 2004 and identified the challenges faced in the implementation of the project and the deliberated on future plans.

The meeting also identified that it is imperative to build capacity in biotoxin testing in SEAFDEC member countries. The Biotoxins project (2009 – 2012) was proposed. The specific aspects of biotoxin testing and the existing capabilities of member countries with regards to the proposed new project were identified.

Technical Publication

A publication, entitled, 'Technical Compilation of Heavy Metals, Pesticide Residues, Histamine and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia: 2004-2008' summarising the results of the regional surveys conducted by participating

¹ MFRD, together with a Japanese expert, Mr. Kazuki Maruyama, conducted the on-site training.

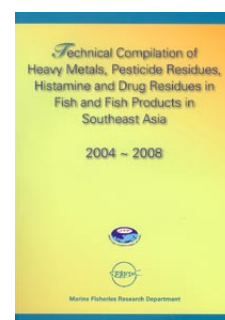
² MFRD, together with a trainer from Thailand's Department of Fisheries (DOF), conducted the on-site training.

³ MFRD, together with a trainer from Thailand's Department of Fisheries (DOF), conducted the on-site training.

⁴ A Japanese expert from the Japan Food Research Laboratory, Ms Sasakura Naoko, was the advisor for the training course. The main trainers for this training were MFRD and FIQD staff.

⁵ MFRD, together with a trainer from the National Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Quality Assurance Department of Vietnam (NAFIQAD), Mr Nguyen Anh Dung, conducted the on-site training.

member countries as well as the reports of all SEAFDEC member countries, was published and distributed in 2008 as the final output of the 5-year programme. The publication is a definitive work highlighting the region's commitment to ensure seafood safety of fish and fish products from the region to importing countries.



Review of the Project

For the purpose of the project, member countries were strongly encouraged to participate in inter-laboratory proficiency testing as it is a measure of the laboratory's proficiency and staff competency when conducting analytical tests. It gives confidence to the results produced by the laboratory. In addition, there is a need for member countries to continuously train and upgrade the skills of laboratory personnel to ensure their competency and efficiency.

In conclusion, this project benefited participating countries by providing baseline information on the level of contamination for heavy metals, pesticide residues, histamine and drug residues. This information is useful for the planning of monitoring programmes within the country and for policy makers, technologists, scientists as well as extension and regulatory personnel in the fisheries sector. These results also provide assurance and confidence in the safety of fish and fish products in participating countries. The project also saw the collaboration amongst laboratories and the sharing of expertise from the region. Experts from laboratories in Thailand and Vietnam served as trainers in several of the courses. This is an indication of the growing pool of expertise and capabilities residing in the region and the establishment of strong collaborative ties amongst member countries.



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

TD Follow-up activities: fisheries management project

TD collaborated with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand to implement the SEAFDEC-DOF project on fisheries management in Chumphon Province, Thailand. As part of the project, Fish Enhancing Devices (FEDs) were installed in two areas in Chumphon Province in March 2009. Monitoring of the effect of the FEDs installation on the fishermen's livelihood and on the coastal resources was carried out from 26 to 29 May 2009. Results have indicated that the local people were satisfied with the

FEDs installation, also saying that the fishery resources have increased after the FEDs were installed in their fishing

area. As a matter of fact, the local people requested more FEDs to be installed in their areas. ❖

TD staff monitoring and following-up on the cage culture activity under the fishery management project in Chumphon Province.



TD provides technical assistance on set net for Indonesia

The technical advisory trip to Bone, Indonesia was carried out by TD staff from 7-19 June 2009. Two TD staff involved in Set-Net project assisted the local fishermen in Pallette Area, Bone Regency, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, in Set-Net fishing. This is part of the TD project which aimed to assist the SEAFDEC Member Countries

in promoting the Set-net fishing technology.

During the trip, gear modification was made by adding another chamber for catch improvement. Catch analysis was also made the result of which were discussed with the fishers group. ❖

Responsible fishing technologies and practices

TD in coordination with Nha Trang University conducted questionnaire surveys with the fishermen in Phu Yen Province, Vietnam from 21 to 24 April 2009 to evaluate and assess the impact of TEDs and JTEDs as well as light fishing on the resources. During the same period, SEAFDEC also collaborated with WWF, NOAA and IbroMar B.V. Company for the conduct of the Long Line Fisheries Observers Program in Nha Trang, Vietnam. The four-day training program included discussions on sea turtle mortality and conservation, sea turtle rescue, catch identification, and data recording, as well as on the use of circle hooks, sea trial and experiment and fishing operations and equipment of tuna longliners. The mitigation of sea turtle interactions with fisheries and works conducted by SEAFDEC in Southeast Asia, such as data collection on sea turtle mortality on trawls and tuna longlines and the equipment and operations onboard tuna longliners and fishing operations safety; risks and hazards in fishing boats; navigation and seamanship were presented by TD staff. ❖



The fishermen in Bone Regency, South Sulawesi, Indonesia were operating Set-net in his area.


“Fisheries Resource Management Course” under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP 2009)

Recently the Chief of SEAFDEC MFRDMD, Ms Mahyam Mohd Isa, has officiated the Opening Ceremony of the Seventh Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) on Fisheries Resources Management Course.

The training course started on 5 July 2009 and this year the course will be conducted for 40 days at MFRDMD in Terengganu. The Fisheries Resources Management Course under the MTCP Training Course is one of the approaches of the DOF Malaysia to transfer and exchange the knowledge and experiences, an effort to develop and strengthen

the capacity in the field of fisheries management to other countries. This year MFRDMD have received nomination of 10 participants from 7 countries:- Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, DPR Korea, Myanmar, Liberia, Morocco, as well as from Malaysia.

Besides conducting research to support the development and management of sustainable fisheries in Malaysia, MFRDMD as a regional center in fisheries resources research, also provides technical support and training for sustainable fisheries development and management to Member Countries as well as to other regions. Through this

training course MFRDMD expected to share the knowledge and best practices in developing and sustaining the fisheries to other regions, in response to the urgent need to properly manage and conserve the resources for the present and future generations. With this training modules and program the department shall promote sustainable fisheries for food security other agencies and countries. Besides, the course is also envisaged to help expanding and improving networking and knowledge-sharing in the field of fisheries management and development, which would lay the groundwork for more future cooperation among the participants. 

DOF Thailand hosts ASA Seminar and First Annual Meeting


The establishment of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was endorsed at the 29th AMAF in November 2007, to enhance closer cooperation among the ASEAN Member States (AMS), both governmental and private sectors, to tackle the issues and common concerns affecting shrimp industries of countries in the ASEAN region. On 30 June 2009, the Department of Fisheries, Thailand hosted the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) Seminar on Shrimp Production Standard in Bangkok, Thailand, with the participation of representatives from the ASEAN Member States and relevant fisheries-related organizations including SEAFDEC. The Seminar was aimed at exchanging views and information on the shrimp aquaculture among the Member Countries, and discussing the issues, obstacles and consideration relevant to the harmonization of shrimp aquaculture standard among the AMS.

During the Seminar, information on the background and the recent status of shrimp aquaculture development in the respective ASEAN countries were presented. Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, also made a presentation on SEAFDEC's Roles in

Sustainable Shrimp Aquaculture. The Seminar then expressed the requirement for the harmonization of shrimp aquaculture standard, and suggested that a regional standard development taskforce (e.g. ASEAN Shrimp GAP Working Group) should be developed to review the relevant existing national standards (e.g. agri-food standards, etc.), taking into consideration the FAO Technical Guidelines, and come up with the draft regional harmonized Guidelines for Shrimp Certification. The Seminar also suggested that the ASA should be used as a regional platform to develop the ASEAN Shrimp GAP Working Group (comprising representatives from both governmental and private sectors), including its TOR, working mechanisms, target outputs and timeframe, in order to facilitate the development of regional harmonized standards.

Back to back with the Seminar, the DOF Thailand also hosted the First Meeting of the ASA, on 1 July 2009, where the outcomes from the ASA Seminar were reported for further consideration and discussion. During the Meeting, the possible areas of cooperation among the ASEAN Member

States under the ASA framework were identified: i) Establishment of the ASEAN Shrimp Aquaculture Standard, ii) Establishment of shrimp certification body, iii) Development/maintenance of the ASA Website, and iv) Development of joint/common position related to shrimp trade.

With regards to the Establishment of the ASEAN Shrimp Aquaculture Standard, the Meeting took note that the development of regional standards for shrimp aquaculture has close linkage with the ASEAN Economic Blueprint, and supported that the ASEAN Shrimp GAP should be established under the ASA cooperation. The Meeting also discussed and identified the Key Strategies in the development of ASEAN Shrimp GAP, and supported that the Regional Expert Group on ASEAN Shrimp GAP should be established. In addition, the Meeting also agreed with the activities and timeframe for the implementation of activities in the development of the ASEAN Shrimp GAP, aiming that the draft ASEAN GAP should be submitted to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the FAO Sub Committee on Aquaculture for consideration. 

New AQD publications

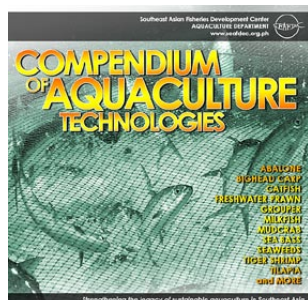
Research and development for sustainable aquaculture in Southeast Asia: strategic plans 2009-2012, a 16-page document outlining the strategic plans of AQD for the years 2009 to 2012. In it, new mission statement is presented as well as the goals, objectives, and targets of its various research, training, information dissemination, and administrative thrusts.



Research collaboration, a 3-fold flyer on AQD's research priorities and facilities with a flow chart for proposals and sample research topics



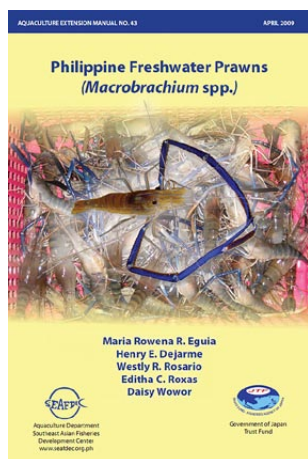
Compendium of aquaculture technologies, a DVD that contains all the aquaculture technologies that AQD has developed, research papers on which the technologies were based, and manuals & other popular publications



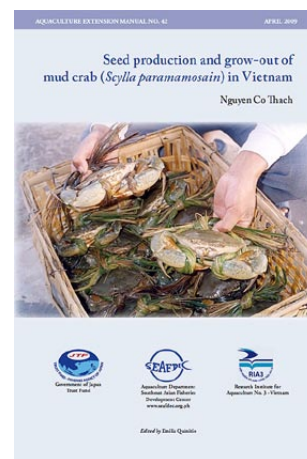
Field guide to Philippine mangroves, an 8-page laminated taxonomic key that shows 17 mangrove families. Jointly produced by Pew Fellows Program, AQD and ZSL Living Conservation



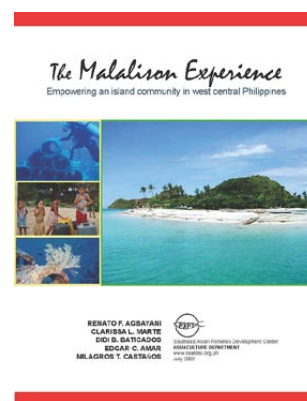
Philippine freshwater prawns, a 60-page manual about Macrobrachium (22 species), their distinguishing features, biology, habitat, distribution and economic importance. Funded by the GOJ-TF



Seed production and grow-out of mud crab (Scylla paramamosain) in Vietnam, a 40-page manual on the culture techniques of mudcrab abundant in Vietnam. Funded by the GOJ-TF and written by RIA-3 Vietnam



The Malalison experience: empowering an island community in west central Philippines, a 64-page documentation of AQD's community fishery resources management project conducted in Malalison Island, Culasi from 1991-1998. The project timeline; lessons learned; and post-project (2009) assessment are included



To obtain more information on the above publications, please contact SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department at:

- bookstore@seafdec.org.ph;
- Tel: (63-33) 511 9170, 5119171; or
- Fax: (63-33) 511 8709



SEAFDEC discusses SOP for deep-sea resources

SEAFDEC Training Department in collaboration with MFRDMD organized the Regional Workshop on the Standard Operation Procedure and Development/Improvement of Sampling Gears for the Deep-Sea Resource Exploration from 26 to 28 May 2009 at the Training Department in Samutprakarn Province, Thailand.

The Workshop aimed to develop the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) as well as the appropriate sampling gears for deep-sea fishery resources exploration, facilitate sharing and exchanging of experiences/views among the experts on deep-sea fishery resources survey, improve the construction of beam trawl, otter-trawl, and net in order to improve the effective sampling gears using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and/or other national research vessels, and discuss/document the possibility of developing other fishing gear for sustainable development and management of the deep-sea sea fisheries in the region.

The Workshop also came up with set of SOP for deep-sea sampling gear; while the suggestions and recommendations would be taken into consideration to improve the current deep-sea sampling gears and methods used in the region. In addition, issues related to deep-sea fisheries would also be explored for further collaboration with other relevant organizations in the region. ❖



Experts attending the Standard Operation Procedure and Development/Improvement of Sampling Gears for the Deep-Sea Resource Exploration Regional Workshop.

CFM course for fisheries managers

SEAFDEC Training Department, with support from the Japanese Trust Fund, organized the International Training Course on Coastal Fisheries Management for Fishery Managers from 25 May to 3 June 2009 in Samutprakarn, Thailand. The course aims to ensure the understanding of participants on the new fisheries management approach which is envisaged to be useful for coastal fisheries management by the respective countries.

This training course has components on: i) lectures/discussion (approximately one week) and ii) field trips (one week), with the course elements on Overview of Coastal Fisheries Management in ASEAN, Characteristic of Coastal Fisheries Resource and Management,

Responsible Fisheries Aspects in Southeast Asia, Rights-based and Co-management Approaches for Coastal Fisheries Management, Coastal Fisheries Management Program Planning and Evaluation including field trip at ICRM-PD and Crab Bank Projects, Chumphon Province.

The course was participated in by thirteen fishery managers from the SEAFDEC Member Countries. It is expected that after the course, all participants should be able to design and appropriately apply the coastal fishery management plans with their local conditions. This would also help in ensuring the sustainability of the coastal resources in this region. ❖



The participants in the Coastal Fisheries Management for Fishery Managers Training Course observe the crab bank project in Chumphon Province.

First Workshop on the assessment of fishery stock status in South and Southeast Asia

SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) organized the 1st Workshop on the Assessment of Fishery Stock Status in the South and Southeast Asia from 16 to 19 June 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed at identifying data availability, local management issues and appropriate assessment methods for fishery stock in the South and Southeast Asia. The workshop focused on the

availability of data in each country of the region and on the management issues that national fishery management authorities need to address, bottom-up expectation from the FAO assessment of the stock status and identification of potential methods that can incorporate auxiliary data/information. The second workshop will take place from 5-9 October 2009 also in Bangkok, Thailand and is mainly for testing and applying the methods identified in the first workshop to fisheries of the member countries. ❖

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer
2009			
15-19 June	Indonesia	1 st HRD Workshop for the Promotion of "FOVOP" in Indonesia	Secretariat
16-19 June	Bangkok, Thailand	1 st Workshop on the Assessment of Fishery Stock Status in the South and Southeast Asia	FAO-SEAFDEC
25-26 June	Bangkok, Thailand	SEAFDEC Departments' Chief Meeting	SEAFDEC
29 June - 3 July	San Sebastian, Spain	2 nd Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization 2009	Tuna RFMOs
3-23 July	Philippines	Training on Abalone Hatchery and Grow-out	AQD
7-17 July	Lao PDR	3 rd Joint Regional Training on Community-Based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast Asia	Secretariat
1-2 July	Samutprakarn, Thailand	End-of-Project Meeting of the Working Party on Information Collection for Economically Important Species as Surimi Materials in Southeast Asian Region	TD
20-31 July	Samutprakarn, Thailand	Training Course on Locally Based Coastal Fishery Management for Thai Fishery Officers	TD
30-31 July	Samutprakarn, Thailand	Regional Workshop on Information Gathering and Cetacean Research in Southeast Asia Region	TD
27-29 July	Satun, Thailand	Workshop on Fishing Vessel Record and Inventory	SEAFDEC/Sida
3-8 August	Myanmar	HRD Workshop for the Promotion of "FOVOP" in Myanmar	Secretariat
4-6 August	Vietnam	Onsite Training on Environmental/User Friendly Fish Handling and Preservation Techniques	TD
25-29 August	Myanmar	1 st National Workshop on Guideline and Standard Method of Data Collection and Fisheries Indicators in Myanmar	TD
17-18 August	Manado, Indonesia	International Seminar on Building a Comprehensive Maritime Security and Possible Benefit to the Effort to Minimize Illegal Fishing in the Region	RPOA-IUU
19-21 August	Manado, Indonesia	Workshop on MCS Curriculum Development and Capacity Building	RPOA-IUU
24-28 August	Rome, Italy	Technical Consultation to draft a legally-binding instrument on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Third resumed session)	
26-28 August	Singapore	Regional Technical Consultation on Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia (Biotoxins Monitoring in ASEAN)	MFRD
2-4 September	Thailand	Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RAC)	SEAFDEC
5-9 October	Bangkok, Thailand	2 nd FAO-SEAFDEC Workshops on the Assessment of Fishery Stock Status in South and Southeast Asia	FAO-SEAFDEC
6-7 October	Singapore	Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries: End-of-Activity (EOA) Workshop on Good Manufacturing Practices for Traditional Products Establishments	MFRD
12-14 October	Thailand	10 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Exchange Program (ISEP)	SEAFDEC
20-22 October	Phuket, Thailand	Meeting of the Sub Regional: Andaman Sea	SEAFDEC/Sida
26 Oct - 4 Nov	Samutprakarn, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Co-management Using Group User Rights for Enhancing Small-scale Fisheries Development and Management	TD
16-18 November	Malaysia	32 nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee	SEAFDEC
19-20 November	Malaysia	12 th Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG)	SEAFDEC
24 Nov - 17 Dec	Samutprakarn, Thailand	International Training Course on Coastal Fisheries Management and Extension Methodology	TD
15-17 December	Bangkok, Thailand	Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics and Information	SEAFDEC

Training Courses to be conducted upon request

For arrangements, please contact: training@seafdec.org.ph.


Course Titles	Duration
Freshwater aquaculture	19 days
Freshwater prawn hatchery and pond grow-out operations	12 days
Tilapia hatchery and grow-out operations	5 days
Carp hatchery and grow-out operations	5 days
Marine fish hatchery	37 days
Hatchery of selected species (milkfish/seabass/grouper)	30 days
Cage/pond culture of high-value species (grouper/snapper/seabass)	15 days
Abalone hatchery and grow-out	21 days
Seaweed farming	15 days
Crab hatchery and grow-out	22 days
Crab seed production	30 days
Mangrove ecology, taxonomy and community structure	7 days
Hands-on training on fish health management	15 days
Detection of viral diseases by PCR	5 days

AQD attends three global meetings

AQD attended three global meetings this quarter to expand its network of contacts for future collaboration, catch up with news on the research of highly respected senior and contemporary researcher-friends and learn new developments/trends.

From 13-15 May 2009, AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo attended the NACA Governing Council Meeting in Xiamen, China at NACA's request. The meeting was hosted by China's Ministry of Agriculture.

On 22-26 June, AQD researchers Dr. Ma. Rowena and Mr. Ruel Eguia participated as poster presentors in the International Symposium on Genetics in Aquaculture that was held in Bangkok. They shared their studies on "A comparative assessment of genetic and biological characteristics in two giant freshwater prawn species (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and *M. wallacei*) in the Philippines" and the "Effect of reduced larval rearing salinity on subsequent growth and survival in two generations of giant freshwater prawn *M. rosenbergii*."

From 1-4 June, AQD staff Mr. Stephen Alayon also participated in the Annual Conference of the International Association of Technological University Libraries held at Leuven, Belgium. His attendance is part of his scholarship grant from the Flemish Interuniversity Council – University Development Cooperation. 

Note for contributors

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.

SEAFDEC ADDRESSES

SECRETARIAT

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903 Thailand
Tel: (66-2)940-6326 Fax: (66-2)940-6336
E-mail: secretariat@seafdec.org
<http://www.seafdec.org>

TRAINING DEPARTMENT (TD)

P.O. Box 97, Phrasamutchedi
Samut Prakan 10290 Thailand
Tel: (66-2)425-6100 Fax: (66-2)425-6110 to 11
E-mail: td@seafdec.org
<http://td.seafdec.org>

MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (MFRD)

2 Perahu Road, off Lim Chu Kang Road
Singapore 718915
Tel: (65)6790-7973 Fax: (65)6861-3196
E-mail: mfrdlibr@pacific.net.sg
<http://www.fishsafetyinfo.com>

AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT (AQD)

Main Office: Tigbauan, 5021 Iloilo, Philippines
Tel (63-33) 511-9171, 336-2965
Fax (63-33) 335-1008, 511-8709, 511-9070
Manila Office: Rm 102 G/F
Philippine Social Science Center (PSSC)
Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City 1101 Philippines
E-mail: aqdchief@seafdec.org.ph
<http://www.seafdec.org.ph>

MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (MFRDMD)

Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, MALAYSIA
Tel: +60-9-617 5940, 617 1543, 617 7867
Fax: +60-9-617 5136, 617 4042
E-mail: mfrdmd@seafdec.org.my
<http://www.seafdec.org.my>

Advisory Board:

Siri Ekmaharaj,
Secretary-General and TD Chief
Hideki Tsubata,
Deputy Secretary-General and TD Deputy Chief
Tan-Low Lai Kim, *MFRD Chief*
Joebert D. Toledo, *AQD Chief*
Mahyam Mohd Isa, *MFRDMD Chief*

Editorial Board:

Pouchamarn Wongsanga,
Information Program Coordinator
Somnuk Pornpatimakorn,
Administration and Finance Coordinator
Somboon Siriraksophon,
Policy and Program Coordinator
Nualanong Tongdee, *Senior Information Officer*

Editors in Chief:

Nualanong Tongdee
Virgilia T. Sulit, *Fisheries Technical Officer*

Editors:

Nualanong Tongdee (Secretariat)
Kongpathai Sarapaivanich (TD)
Vijay Krishnan Chandran (MFRD)
Milagros T. Castaños (AQD)
Mohamed Nor Azam (MFRDMD)


Thailand hosts AFCF Preparatory Meeting

From 27 to 29 May 2009, the Department of Fisheries, Thailand hosted the Preparatory Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) in Bangkok, Thailand with support from Sida-SEAFDEC Project on Support to the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. During the Meeting, the need for the regional fisheries management mechanism in the ASEAN region to provide a platform for the ASEAN Member Countries to discuss the important fisheries management issues and emerging challenges to ensure sustainable development of fisheries in the region was reiterated. This AFCF preparatory Meeting therefore aimed to gather views and contributions from the Member Countries as well as the fisheries-related international/regional organizations, which would form an important basis for the determination of issues and activities to be taken up by the AFCF in the future.

During the Meeting, while reaffirming that fisheries management is the obligation and need to be done by the individual

Member Countries, the need for common system/framework under AFCF to harmonize management of fisheries, and platform for sharing of information among Countries was expressed. The Meeting then considered the AFCF activities, and in principle agreed that the AFCF activities should cover the following cluster areas: i) Combating IUU Fishing, including MCSs, exchange of information, and implementation of port state measures, and preparation for the implementation of the EC Regulation on Catch Documentation; ii) Management of fishing capacity, including harmonization of fishing vessels record/registration, harmonization of fishing capacity determination, development of ASEAN Strategy for management of fishing capacity; iii) Conservation of biodiversity and enhancing fishery resources, including aquatic biodiversity, conservation and management of fishery habitats, reducing the catch of small/juvenile fish, and strengthening measures to prevent the catch and by-catch of endangered aquatic species; iv) Fish for aquaculture feed, including reducing the use of low-value fish for aquaculture

feed, and development of aquaculture feed from alternative protein sources; v) Adaptation/addressing issues on climate change, including reporting, compiling and sharing of information on the impact from climate change to fisheries aquaculture and ecosystem; vi) Platform for common position on international trade-related issues, such as fishery subsidies, etc., vii) Fisheries co-management and decentralization, including collaboration in management through community participation and involvement of other stakeholders; viii) Fisheries post-harvest and food safety, including the improvement of value-added of fish products and monitoring system for contaminants in captured fishery and aquaculture products, and ix) Capacity building (to be integrated in all above cluster areas).

The outcomes and recommendations from this Meeting were submitted to the first Annual Meeting of the AFCF organized from 1 to 2 June 2009 in Hoi An, Vietnam, back to back with the 17th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF). 

Appointment of new SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore

Ms. Tan Poh Hong who has succeeded Dr Chua Sin Bin as the Chief Executive Officer of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) since 21 May 2009 has been appointed as the new SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore. Prior to this, she was the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Housing and Development Board (HDB), Singapore's public housing authority.

Ms. Tan has extensive experience in policy formulation and planning as well as overseeing operations and corporate and public communications at the HDB. She held the key appointments of Director (Corporate Development) and Secretary of the HDB Board prior to her appointment as HDB's DCEO. She was formerly a Board Member of the

Cleantech Pte Ltd, EM Services Pte Ltd and the Central Provident Fund Board. At present, she is a Board Member of the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Estate Management) (Honours) degree from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Masters in Business Administration (with Distinction) from New York University. She also completed the Stanford Executive Program in USA in 1998. Ms. Tan was accorded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the NUS Faculty of Architecture, Building & Real Estate in 1999. For her outstanding contributions, she was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) and the Public Service Medal (PBM). She was also one of the first recipients of the International Management Action Award, an international award conferred

on outstanding individuals who have demonstrated exceptional ability in taking management action to achieve sustainable, tangible results for an organisation.



Ms. Tan Poh Hong

For promoting an excellent Union-Management relationship in HDB, she was awarded the Medal of Commendation by the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC).

Her appointment as the SEAFDEC Council Director is envisaged to enhance closer collaboration among the Member Countries and between SEAFDEC and Singapore in the years to come. 