

SEAFDEC welcomes new Secretary-General



*SEAFDEC Secretary-General
Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*

SEAFDEC welcomes its new Secretary-General and Chief of the Training Department, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri succeeding Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, who completed his four-year term of service as SEAFDEC Secretary-General on 30 September 2009.

Prior to his nomination to SEAFDEC, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri worked as Expert in Ecology at the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand. Dr.

Chumnarn completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries from the Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University in 1981, Master of Science in Aquaculture from the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand) in 1985, Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Sukhothai Thammathiraj (Thailand) in 1993, and Ph.D. from the University of Wales, UK in 1994. At the start of his fisheries career, he worked as Fisheries Biologist in several provinces in the northeastern part of Thailand. From 2000 to 2003, he worked as Director of the Environment Division of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat and also served as Member of the Board of Advisors for the Greater Mekong Sub-region Academic Research Network (GMSARN), after which he returned to the DOF and continued working as a Senior Fisheries Biologist and Expert in Ecology. Dr. Chumnarn also served as Secretary to the Permanent Secretary

of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Considering the vast expertise of Dr. Chumnarn in various fields of fisheries, such as in aquaculture, fish genetics, ecology, fisheries management, fish nutrition, fishery extension and natural resources management, among others, SEAFDEC is ensured that its capability is enhanced to be able to continue providing support and technical assistance to the Member Countries for the sustainable development of fisheries, and for SEAFDEC to achieve its revitalized mandate “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”.



Second meeting of RAC held in Bangkok

SEAFDEC organized the Second Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RAC) from 2 to 4 September 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the Standing Member from Vietnam, Mr. Pham Trong Yen being elected to hold the chairmanship of RAC. During this second RAC Meeting, several priority issues relevant to fisheries management of the Southeast Asian region were reviewed and discussed, and recommendations were developed

*SEAFDEC Secretary-General,
Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj (left),
and the new Chairman of RAC,
Mr. Pham Trong Yen (right)*

for further submission to the SEAFDEC Council.

In enhancing sustainability of fishery resources and stocks, the Meeting suggested that regional collaborative



management efforts to enhance the inland and marine fisheries resources and stocks are required, and the goals and roadmap for the enhancement of resources/stocks should be developed. The Meeting then suggested that required actions (immediate and long-term) on fisheries resources enhancement should be identified/elaborated, and incorporated into the national/regional programs of the Member Countries, and SEAFDEC. These activities could be tentatively classified into clusters, *i.e.* i) Conservation and restoration of marine and freshwater habitats, ii) Stock enhancement of

(To be continued on Page 2)

EDITORIAL

Improving fisheries management has always been among the priority areas of SEAFDEC during the recent years. During this quarter, SEAFDEC has made progressive steps in discussing various fisheries management issues at the second meeting of RAC. During the quarter, SEAFDEC also organized the Meeting on Fishing Vessel Record and Inventory, where discussions were made on the development of regionally harmonized fishing vessel record and inventory system in order to facilitate the verification of fishing capacity of the region which is an important basis for the development of fisheries management and development plans in the future.

SEAFDEC also made progress in the conduct of several HRD activities, and the activities in the promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products, with a series of on-site activities conducted in selected ASEAN Member Countries. The third training on aquaculture for remote rural areas of Southeast Asian was also conducted by SEAFDEC in collaboration with several partners in Lao PDR (the first and second course was in 2007 and 2008). These activities are envisaged to enhance the contribution from fisheries to food security, particularly in the rural communities, which is envisaged to be among the priority areas to be undertaken by ASEAN and SEAFDEC in the years ahead.

As SEAFDEC is planning to organized its Program Committee Meeting in the coming November, various program matters, as well as the linkages between RAC and SEAFDEC programs would be further discussed and elaborated on. ❖

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Second meeting of RAC held in Bangkok

(Continued from Page 1)

heavily-exploited and economically-important species, iii) Assessing the impacts of habitat restoration and stock enhancement activities, iv) Improvement and implementation of effective fisheries management, v) Promotion of responsible fishing operations, and reduction of the impacts from fishing operations to fishery resources and eco-systems, vi) Maximizing the use of existing data and information to support policy planning and management for sustainable fisheries, and vii) Enhancing stakeholder involvement and public awareness, and integrating the socio-economic aspects in the resources and stock enhancement activities. Considering that there are several clusters of activities that are envisaged to contribute to the sustainability of the fishery resources/stocks, a holistic approach should be considered in the formulation and implementation of activities; and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) could be established or technical consultations could be organized to further discuss and elaborate on the relevant issues and follow-up on the recommendations made by RAC.

In improving data and information collection on fishing vessel record and catch documentation scheme, the Meeting suggested that the SEAFDEC Member Countries should continue their attempts in assessing the current level of fishing

capacity through vessel registration and/or fishing licensing system of commercial fisheries and small-scale/coastal fisheries (or gear registration in the case of inland fisheries), and the vessel registration record of the respective countries should be regionally harmonized. The Meeting also suggested ways and means to improve the catch documentation scheme and fishing logbook system by the Member Countries. In particular, it was suggested that the Logbook System should be used by the SEAFDEC Member Countries, starting from commercial large-scale fishing vessels and later on to be expanded to also cover small-scale vessels, to improve their respective catch documentation schemes. Information to be recorded in the Logbook should be simple enough for the fishermen to complete and suitable to support management for sustainable fisheries, particularly the catch by fishing areas.

The recommendations from the second RAC Meeting would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration, policy advice, and endorsement. In addition, to create linkages among the activities undertaken under the umbrella of RAC and SEAFDEC program framework, the recommendations of RAC would also be provided to the SEAFDEC Program Committee for information and possible incorporation into the existing framework. ❖



Participants of the Second Meeting of RAC

AQD is 36 years old

With a “barrio-fiesta” theme, the AQD community, guests and well-wishers gathered together to celebrate AQD’s 36th founding anniversary on 9 July 2009.

Guest of honor Atty. Malcolm Sarmiento, SEAFDEC Council Director and BFAR Director, re-affirmed the support of the Philippine government to AQD and SEAFDEC, noting that stakeholders continue equating aquaculture technologies with the institution. He also requested AQD’s assistance in formulating the Philippines’ five-year development plan for high-value marine fish as the new centerpiece of the country’s food production program, and in developing more innovative approaches to climate change.

AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo was more than agreeable to the government’s requests as these were also covered by



BFAR Director Sarmiento conveys Philippine support to AQD



AQD Chief JD Toledo distributes gifts to AQD neighbors

the priority programs of the Department. He thanked the Philippine government for its never-failing support to AQD.

Aside from the program, activities during the anniversary week include a clean-up, tree planting, blood-letting to benefit the Philippine National Red Cross, medical mission and gift-giving for neighborhood communities, a fun pageant and games for employees divided into teams, ceremonial opening of the new small-scale backyard hatchery, booklaunching of nine publications and a bookwriting workshop, and the Dean DK Villaluz Memorial Lecture. The latter was delivered by Dr. Fernando Siringan of the University of the Philippines who talked about “Temporal trends of sea surface temperature in the Philippines and some possible consequences”.



Japan gives honor to AQD scientist



Dr. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos, a scientist at AQD, was recently honored as one of the recipients of the “2009 Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers”. The recognition was made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan for Dr. Ramos’ work on stock enhancement of commercially important and threatened marine invertebrates in the tropics such as mudcrab, abalone, giant clam and angelwing clam. Stock enhancement of threatened species of international concern is one of SEAFDEC’s regional programs funded by GOJ Trust Fund.

MAFF initiated the award in 2007 to acknowledge the role of young agricultural researchers in technological development in alleviating food security and environment in developing countries. The honored researchers will be given support and financial incentives from the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS).



New partnerships: AQD, a US feed company, and a Philippine university

AQD recently signed a research contract with SmithBucklin Corp, a company in Missouri (USA), for the project “Use of soybean meal and soy protein concentrate as alternatives to fish meal in practical feeds for milkfish”. The US \$25,836 project will run from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009. The primary goal is to build demand for soy products in aquaculture markets in the Philippines and Southeast Asia by investigating the use of soy products, soybean meal and soy protein concentrate as alternatives to fish meal in practical feeds for milkfish. A cost-effective and

low-polluting milkfish feed can benefit not only soybean producers and traders but also fish farmers, feed manufacturers, fish nutritionists and other stakeholders of sustainable milkfish aquaculture.

For AQD’s host country, the Philippines, St. Paul’s University was added to the growing list of partner institutions. The signing of a five-year memorandum of understanding was made on July 10, and was aimed at collaborative training and extension programs; exchange of researchers between the two institutions for instruction, training

and related activities; and strengthening the capabilities of both institutions in the field of fisheries, aquatic and related sciences, giving emphasis on sound environmental practices.



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

TD promotes sustainable coastal fishery management for Thai fishery officers

TD organized a training course on Locally-Based Coastal Fisheries Management for Thai Fisheries Officers from 20 to 31 July 2009 at the Training Department in Samut Prakan, Thailand, with the support from the Government of Thailand.

The course was attended by twenty nine fisheries officers from the Thai DOF,

and had the main objectives of increasing awareness on the concept of coastal fishery management and facilitating the exchange of experience and skills on the relevant topics among the participants. It was anticipated that the knowledge and experience from the course, both lecture and study trip sessions, could be applied in their respective working areas.



The participants visit cage culture during a study trip in coastal fisheries management

TD takes part in “Pramong Nomklao” exhibition

SEAFDEC Training Department and the Department of Fisheries of Thailand jointly took part in the fishery exhibition at the “Pramong Nomklao” in Patumthani Province, Thailand from 3 to 12 July 2009. The theme of TD’s exhibition was “Oceanographic Equipment and Survey in the Deep Sea”. Displayed during the exhibition were the oceanographic equipment for determining several water quality parameters, e.g. conductivity temperature and depth, etc., grab, core, beam trawl and remotely operated vehicles. Sampling gear designed for collecting deep sea fish and fish larvae was also demonstrated. To promote other activities of SEAFDEC, relevant materials, e.g. publications, brochures,



Visitors of SEAFDEC booth at the National Fishery Exhibition in Thailand

VCDs, and related souvenirs, were also distributed during the event.



Follow-up activities of the responsible fishing project

From 1998, TD has been conducting a series of demonstrations and experiments on the use of Juvenile and Trash Excluder Devices (JTEDs) in Southeast Asian waters. To assess the extent of the use of JTEDs by countries in the region, monitoring on the progress of the use of JTEDs in Southeast Asia was conducted by TD in the Philippines (13-17 July 2009), Indonesia (3-7 August 2009), and Vietnam (7-11 September 2009).

In addition, during the same period, TD also conducted an observation and survey on light fishing, the result of which would be used to design and develop a questionnaire on the impact of light fishing as part of the future activities of TD. Light fishing is commonly used by fishers to aggregate more fishes. However, increasing the light source could also increase fuel use. This survey was therefore conducted in response to the Regional Plan of Action for the Reduction of the Impacts of Fishing Gear in Coastal and Marine Waters in Southeast Asia, developed during the Regional Workshop on the Reduction of the Impacts of Fishing on the Coastal and Marine Environments in the Southeast Asian Waters conducted by TD in January 2009, where the need to assess the present status of light fishing in Southeast Asia for each target gear or area was expressed. This monitoring activity was also considered as part of the post-evaluation activity of TD on the implementation of the FAO/UNEP/GEF project on Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling through the Introduction of By-catch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management or REBYC I, which had Indonesia and the Philippines as participating countries and SEAFDEC as a collaborating partner, for Southeast

(To be continued on page 5)

Abalone Training graduates five

Five trainees, one each from Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, successfully completed the International Training Course on Abalone Hatchery and Grow-out conducted by AQD from 2 to 22 July 2009, with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund. They had extensive lecture and practical sessions on hatchery management, culture of natural food organisms, grow-out, harvest, and financial feasibility analysis. Field trips also formed part of the training. ☒



Follow-up activities of the responsible fishing project

(Continued from Page 4)

Asia. The results of the activity could be used during the Inception Meeting of the FAO/GEF Inception Workshop on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards in Trawl Fisheries or REBYC II (to be organized by TD in close cooperation with FAO by the end of 2009). It is envisaged that REBYC II would focus on the Coral Triangle region of Southeast Asia considering that it is one of the world's most biologically diverse marine zones and thus, more focus should be placed for the conservation of the resources in the area. ☒

Angola, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia officials visit AQD

AQD welcomed fisheries officials who came to view its facilities, get familiarized with AQD's work, and discuss possible areas of collaboration.

Dr. Salomao Xirimimbimbi, Angola's



Minister of Fisheries, and colleagues visited AQD on 7 July 2009.

Mr. Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of Papua New Guinea's National Fisheries Authority together with Assistant Research Officer, Mr. Jerome Tioti, spent time at AQD on 29 July 2009.

Dr. Anwar Eissa Al Sunaiher, Aquaculture Department Director of the Ministry of Agriculture of Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), together with Mr. Baheej Mohammed Rasse, Fish Farming Center (FFC) Director at Jeddah visited AQD from 3 to 7 August. They were accompanied by FAO chief technical adviser Dr. Felix Ayson. ☒

Philippine ex-President Ramos visits AQD exhibit

No less than the Honorable Fidel Ramos, ex-President of the Philippines, visited the AQD exhibit at the Manila Aqua Marine and Aquatic Resources Exposition (MAMARE) organized by the private and government sectors. The exhibit opened to the public from 20 to 23 August 2009, and was held at

the World Trade Center – Manila. A feature of AQD's participation was the seminar by Mr. Albert Gaitan, Head of AQD's Igang Marine Station, on marine fish breeding, hatchery, and nursery operations.



AQD also joined the Science and Technology Fair organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Visayas from 17 to 22 August in Bacolod City, central Philippines. AQD helped promote public awareness on the critical role of science and technology (S&T) in national development. ☒

At Lao PDR, training in HRD rural aquaculture was well-attended

Lao PDR hosted the first session of the Human resources development (HRD) on site-training course on rural aquaculture from 1 to 7 September at Nalao clusters of Phon Hong District, Vientiane Province. This training aimed to build the capacity of farmers in rural aquaculture to improve their livelihood and alleviate poverty. The SEAFDEC Secretariat, AQD and Lao PDR worked

hand in hand to provide technical and logistic support during the training.

The 25 trainees found the training -- which focuses on freshwater aquaculture, specifically on tilapia and integrated fish farming / polyculture -- generally quite satisfactory. The trainees also had field demonstrations; and visited an agricultural development and service center, the fish processing areas in Vang Vieng, and farm of their co-trainee.



Resource persons were scientists Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia and Mr. Renato Agbayani (both of AQD) and Ms. Nouhak Liepvisay of Lao PDR's Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF). Ms. Liepvisay was also the training coordinator

along with Mr. Akhane Phomsouvanh, also of DLF. This HRD activity is a series of training being implemented by SEAFDEC as part of a center wide project on poverty alleviation and food security in ASEAN nations. HRD is funded by the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund of the ASEAN Foundation. The Lao PDR training is the first among the eight sessions on rural aquaculture which will also be conducted in another eight SEAFDEC Member Countries. ☒

AQD shares expertise in Thai abalone symposium, other meetings

AQD's Mr. Vincent Encena II, senior technical staff, attended the 7th International Abalone Symposium in Pattaya, Thailand from 20 to 24 July 2009. As the Philippine representative to the International Abalone Society, Mr. Encena presented the country paper entitled "The Philippine abalone industry: status, research and aquaculture potential". He also joined the steering committee for World Wildlife Fund-Abalone Aquaculture Dialogue (WWF-AAD) whose meeting was held July 25-26 also in Pattaya. WWF-AAD is a series of meetings geared towards developing the global environmental standards for farmed abalone.

Meanwhile, AQD scientist Dr. Relicardo Coloso was invited by the Philippine Government to a consultative meeting that will draft a national standard for aquaculture feeds. This took place July 16 in Bacolod City. Dr. Coloso talked about the prospect of improving feeds and formulating environment

friendly feeds to sustain aquaculture better.

AQD scientist Dr. Ma. Lourdes Aralar, on the other hand, participated in the First Investment Conference held from 22 to 23 July and organized by Region 12 in General Santos City in southern Philippines. She presented the available technology from AQD for the larval rearing, nursery and grow-out of the giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium*). At the end of the session for ulang almost Php 4 million worth of investments were offered by the interested investor-participants.

Also in General Santos City, AQD researchers Dr. Mae Catacutan and Ms. Antonietta Evangelista were at the 2nd Hito Conference on 21 July. They presented AQD's contribution to the "hito" or catfish industry in the Philippines. They discussed hatchery, nursery and grow out technologies of catfish that is native to the Philippines.



As a result, AQD was given formal recognition by the Mindanao Business Council as one of the leading agencies helping the catfish industry.

Back in the Philippine capital city of Manila, AQD scientist Dr. Maria Rowena Eguia attended the forum on genetic modification (GM) wherein she presented a paper entitled "Are we ready for 'franken' tilapia?" The forum was held July 20 in Quezon City. Meanwhile, Dr. Aralar represented AQD at the roundtable discussion on Impact Assessment Methodologies in the Fisheries Sector hosted by PCAMRD from 9 to 10 September 2009. ☒

On-site training on environmental/ user friendly fish handling and preservation technique

TD in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Resources Protection (DECAFIREP) of Vietnam, with financial support from the Japanese Trust Fund, organized an On-site Training on Environmental/User-Friendly Fish Handling and Preservation Techniques from 4 to 6 August 2009 at Phu Yen Province, Vietnam. The Training was attended by tuna longline fishers, harbor authorities, factories, local officers of Phu Yen fisheries office, and DECAFIREP's staff.

The major objectives of the Training were: i) to provide technical support on reduction of post-harvest losses and improvement of fish handling onboard tuna fishing boats, ii) to transfer appropriate technology to the longline fishers on environmental/user-friendly fish handling and preservation techniques, and iii) to exchange knowledge and discuss with the fishers and other key

stakeholders on ways to improve quality of landing catch. This training was therefore expected to help in improving the quality of catch while reducing the post-harvest losses from longline operations. In addition, the training also came up with recommendations for improvement of the catch quality of tuna in Phu Yen, *i.e.* the modification of onboard fish handling to maintain the low- and steady-temperature for tuna before unloading. ❖



Vietnamese participants observe and practice the technique of fish handling and preservation onboard

TD promotes the use of circle hook in Malaysia

TD organized the Fishing Trial and Demonstration to Promote the Use of Circle Hook in Bottom Longline Fishing from 29 September to 1 October 2009, in collaboration with the Sarawak State Department of Fisheries, Malaysia. This event aimed to encourage the longline fishers to use circle hook in their longline fishing operations in order to reduce sea turtle mortality and by-catch in the bottom longline fishing. The event was participated by local fishers, staff of Museum Department (the agency

responsible for the management and conservation of the sea turtles in Sarawak State), staff of Department of Forestry as well as staff from DOF-Malaysia HQ and SEAFDEC-MFRDMD. The event included lecture and discussion, one-day fishing trial to compare the efficiency of circle hook compared with conventional J-hook, and discussion on reduction of sea turtle by-catch in the bottom longline fishing. Samples of the circle hooks and d-hook (a device used for removing the hook from sea turtle's mouth) were distributed to local fishers and extension officers for further trials and promotion as discussed during the activity. ❖



In-class of the Use of Circle Hook in Bottom Longline Fishing in Malaysia

TD staff take part in cetacean sighting survey in Philippine water

Two TD researchers, Mr. Sayan Promjinda and Mr. Tossaporn Sukhapindha, joined the marine research survey onboard the M.V. DA-BFAR from 16 to 26 August 2009 to conduct cetacean sighting survey in Philippine waters. The objectives of this sighting survey were to gather cetacean data/information and to prepare a check list of cetacean species existing in Southeast Asian waters based on data from the Member Countries, gather information on whale/dolphin watching spots in the waters of the Member Countries, and share/exchange information on the appearance of large cetaceans in the coastal areas and/or on the seashores of the countries in the region.

The survey started from Butuan City in northeastern Mindanao, where the researchers set one payaw in nearby Siargao Island at sea depth of 1800-2000 m and conducted one Pelagic long line fishing operation at the eastern part of the Island at sea depth of 7000-9000 m. After completing the activities, the M.V. DA-BFAR sailed back to Manila Bay, passing through the Mindanao Sea, Camotes Sea, Visayan Sea, Sibuyan Sea and along Romblon Island, then proceeded to Manila Bay. During the survey, two species of whales were observed: one sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) near the coasts of Siargao Island at sea depth of about 1000 m., and another school of melon-headed whale (*Peponocephala electra*), about 10 whales while the vessel was sailing from Mindanao Sea to Camotes Sea.

In addition, a group of dolphins were also sighted when the vessel was sailing back to Manila. Seven schools of dolphins were identified as Gray's Spinner Dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), however, another groups could not be identified because only the fins could be seen or only the silhouette of the animals could be seen as they were swimming under water. ❖

SPECIAL REPORT

Golden harvests in tilapia, seaweed, milkfish: fish farmers improve their livelihood because of SEAFDEC technology and training program



Tilapia cages in Dumarao

Mr. Jose Basamot is not new to hard work. To sustain his family, he has been farming a plot of land in Dumarao, a land-locked municipality on Panay island in west central Philippines, when he has to halt operations after the reservoir of a small dam permanently flooded his farm. This placed him, and 35 other rice farmers in his neighborhood, in a quandary: what to do with the water on the land?

The simple answer – aquaculture – was provided by the provincial government of Capiz who gave funds and tapped SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) in the Philippines for technical assistance.

Mr Basamot tells of his experiences after training with AQD on tilapia culture



Now, two years later, and after the rice farmers trained with AQD in freshwater aquaculture all throughout 2007-2008 in four season-long training modules, eight of the 36 trainees or 22% has put up their own tilapia hatchery and cage farms. Their income from tilapia culture has made up for their lost income in agriculture.

The tilapia farmers of Dumarao say they estimate their profit from tilapia to be about 50% of operating costs, and that this is much better than raising pigs. The individual holding ranges from five units of 4 x 10 m cages to 18 units of 4 x 4 m cages whose nets are framed with indigenous bamboo. They harvest every three-and-a-half to four months, and the size is about 200 g tilapia. Some are now in their third cycle of grow-out culture. Though they have formed into a cooperative, recording of production and cost for each member is still a learning process. Nonetheless, the rice-turned-tilapia farmers are proud of their “bayanihan” spirit (esprit d’ corps), that is, they help each other build the cages and sew the net cages (techniques demonstrated by AQD), and often consult each other on minor problems. They are also most happy about the fact that running a tilapia farm means less walking on mud and less bearing the heat of the sun.

All eight farmers attribute their success to AQD's technology and the provincial government of Capiz. They wish for their other 28 co-trainees to do business as they now do, but the initial capital of around Php 9,000 (US\$ 200) is still not affordable to most.

Similarly in the often-troubled island of Mindanao in southern Philippines, AQD training made an impact on poor villagers, this time on young people whose families cannot afford to send them to school and who have to fend both for themselves and their families.

Mr. Ummik Sabung is one fine example, and one of the 130 youth trainees that joined the seaweed training program run by the Philippine Development Assistance Programme Inc in 2007. He became the most successful of them all, harvesting from 100 lines the seaweeds valued at Php 100,000 (US\$ 2,200), and to think that his initial capital was only Php 1,000 (US\$ 22). Mr. Sabung attributed his success to his AQD mentor – scientist Dr. Anicia Hurtado – and his determination to implement the AQD technology as taught to the youth group. It helped that the training enabled him to understand the principles of sustainable seaweed farming, and he was able to avoid diseases brought about by stock overcrowding and stress.



Youth go into seaweed farming using SEAFDEC technology

Mr. Sabung is now considered as one of the wealthiest seaweed farmers in his island of Sikulan, Sulu, and has ventured into providing quality seaweed seedlings to his neighbors.

In the oil spill affected island of Guimaras in central Philippines, fisherfolk turned fishfarmers – trained by AQD in season-long training modules on milkfish cage culture beginning October 2007 and up to the present – are enjoying their collective profits and have set about strengthening their people's cooperatives.

Early this year, AQD handed over to communities in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras the profits of the community-run, AQD-supervised, and Petron/Citi-funded milkfish cage culture. The project income amounted to Php 267,855 (nearly US\$5,700) and was divided among the four participating communities who plan to use the money to fund more livelihood projects of their own.


Income came from more than 9 tons of milkfish – each weighing about half a kilo – that were harvested after seven months of culture from three cages situated at AQD's Igang Marine Station.



AQD hands over project income in milkfish culture to community leaders

Says village leader Ms. Julie Mojedo of Brgy. Magamay of Nueva Valencia: "The Petron-Citi-SEAFDEC milkfish project is really a big help to us. We were taught by SEAFDEC a lot of skills and knowledge in rearing fish in cages. In fact, some of the training graduates have been hired and/or are managing the floating cages owned by private investors in the area. The successful production has also sparked more interest, and more people want to participate, including the local government."

The above three cases are just a few hard examples of the effectiveness of SEAFDEC technologies and training & information programs. To date (1975 to 2008), AQD has trained and transferred technology to 12,106 stakeholders in 365 training sessions that are a few days to a month to season long. The training courses are conducted at AQD's four stations, on-site at the stakeholders' facilities, or through the internet as distance learning courses. AQD's most attended courses before 1992 have been tiger shrimp hatchery-nursery operations and brackishwater pond culture. After that, the most attended are abalone, mudcrab and milkfish mariculture. Except the online courses (principles of fish health management and fish nutrition), the courses are 80% practical sessions. Courses in 1987-2008 (total trainees = 3,697) have been attended by 71% male and 29% female who are from national government agencies of SEAFDEC Member Countries (41%), private sector (18%), academe (17%), research & development sector (10%), local government units in the Philippines (6%) and others. Making up the bulk of trainees are Filipinos (57%) as AQD is hosted by the Government of the Philippines, followed by Thais (8%) and Malaysians (8%). Trainees also come from Vietnam (6%), Myanmar (4%), Cambodia (4%), Indonesia (3%) and 32 other countries.

"It is important to note that AQD's research output (over 600 papers in ISI-journals) for the past 36 years are what goes into the technology and training course packages," AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo sums it up. 

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Workshop on Fishing Vessel Record and Inventory

With a growing concern on the decline and degradation of marine fishery resources in the Southeast Asian region, efforts to improve the management of these resources are urgently required. However, there is also a need for a clearer picture on the existing fishing capacity, the relevant stakeholders, etc., to ensure the effectiveness in management of such resources. SEAFDEC, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), therefore organized the Workshop on Fishing Vessel Record and Inventory in Satun Province, Thailand on 27-29 July 2009 to discuss the relevant issues, and pave the way for the harmonization of fishing vessel record and inventory among countries in the region in order to provide better understanding on the size and structure of fishing vessels in

the region. The Workshop was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Member Countries and Papua New Guinea, senior officials of SEAFDEC Secretariat, senior experts from TD, as well as resource persons from FAO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF).

Prior to the discussion session, a one-day field trip was arranged to Tammarang Fishing Port, Satun Provincial Fisheries Office, Satun Marine Fisheries Station, Satun Fisherfolk Association (in La-Ngu District), community mangrove and community fishing port. During field trip, the participants obtained background information on the current situation, issues and problems, taking the experience of Thailand as a case

study, the roles and responsibility of relevant offices/stakeholders, etc. The participants also obtained views from the relevant stakeholders which they referred to during the discussion.

Discussed during the Workshop were: the existing systems of Member Countries for fishing vessel records and inventories, e.g. institutional “flow chart” focusing on legal aspects and institutional responsibilities at various stages such as permission to build a boat, inspection of safety and licensing, etc.; and the formulation of regional standard on fishing vessel record and inventory forms (Large and Small scale). The participants also provided positive indications and responses on the harmonization of vessel record among countries in the region to improve the cooperation on fishing vessel registration and fishing licenses. The Workshop also discussed the regional initiative on “Fishing Vessel Record and Inventory Forms” together with the process/timeframe for the development of fishing registration system, and gathering of feedback from Member Countries on such initiative. ❖



Participants of the Workshop on Fishing Vessel Record and Inventory

MFRDMD conducts Meeting to conclude the outcomes from Sea Turtle project

(Continued from Page 11)

future related activities of the Japanese Trust Fund Program (2010-2014).

With the presence of several regional experts, scientists and researchers, it was hoped that several outstanding outcomes will be achieved. To continue the activities on Sea Turtle, for 2010, MFRDMD is planning to start a new program which aimed to conserve regional sea turtle populations, also with the support from the Japanese Trust Fund. ❖



MFRDMD conducts Meeting to conclude the outcomes from Sea Turtle project

Experiments on the tagging of sea turtles using conventional inconel tags had been implemented by MFRDMD with support from the Japanese Trust Fund in SEAFDEC participating member countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam since 1998. Implementing the Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags or microchip tags as supplement tags had been carried out in five countries, namely: Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines. MFRDMD also conducted satellite telemetry studies in some member countries since in 2005 to 2009. The outcomes on tagging and satellite telemetry studies would help in determining the migration route, foraging habitat and other biological information on sea turtles, which are very important in regional conservation and management of sea turtles.

The Regional Core Expert Group Meeting on Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles was held from 20-21 October 2009 in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, with participants from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, representatives from SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and MFRDMD, as well as resource persons from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, DOF Malaysia and Marine Parks Malaysia. The Meeting had the objectives to of i) deliberating on reports presented by country representatives on tagging activities, satellite telemetry studies as well as investigations on the interactions between fisheries and sea turtles, ii) discussing the results and the latest findings from research activities of sea turtles conducted by SEAFDEC participating member countries from 2004 to 2008, iii) discussing the proposal for supplementary study under the JTF program in 2009, and iv) discussing the

(To be continued on Page 10)

SEAFDEC/FRA Joint Workshop on Artificial Reefs for Enhancement of Fishery Resources

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD and Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) of Japan, in collaboration of Department of Fisheries Malaysia, jointly organized a one-day Workshop on Artificial Reefs for the Enhancement of Fishery Resources in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 4 August 2009. The objectives of the workshop were to gather knowledge and better understanding for the placement of artificial reefs in the waters of Southeast Asia and Japan through sharing information about scientific-based designs, evaluation methods of ARs, and to deepen the understanding on the importance of preserving fishing grounds by implementing ARs program through cooperation between SEAFDEC and the Member Countries.

The workshop was attended by nearly 80 representatives from various governmental offices in Malaysia,

MFRDMD, and SEAFDEC/Training Department. The Meeting was also attended by resource persons from FRA Japan; MFRDMD; SEAFDEC Secretariat; Fisheries Research Institute, Licensing and Resource Management Division, and Engineering Division of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia.

Several presentations were made, including the case study on artificial reefs in Malaysia as presented by Mr. Ahmad Ali (MFRDMD), and the information and experiences on the case study and design of artificial reefs in Japan as shared by Dr. Ichiro Nakayama and Dr. Yoshihiro Ohmura (FRA). It is envisaged that the technical collaboration and cooperation between SEAFDEC, FRA and the SEAFDEC Member Countries would eventually contribute to the enhancement and protection of fishery resources for the future. ☒

RFPN members designated for SEAFDEC

In June 2009, four members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) were designated and stationed at the SEAFDEC Secretariat to take part in the Secretariat's activities and initiatives in addressing regional fisheries-related issues, and formulating corresponding policy recommendations to safeguard the Member Countries' priority interest on the respective issues.

The RFPN members in 2009 comprise Mr. Awwaluddin (Indonesia), Mr. Yusri bin Yusof (Malaysia), Mr. Nyunt Win (Myanmar) and Mrs. Piyawan Hussadee (Thailand). Supported by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida), their main tasks are currently focused on the issues on climate change and adaption, promotion of regional and sub-regional

cooperation to enhance management of fisheries, as a well as other specific issues/assignments.

During the quarter, the RFPN members took part in several SEAFDEC activities, e.g. Workshop on Fishing Vessel Record and Inventory, Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management (RAC), etc. In addition, they also facilitated the dialogue between SEAFDEC and other organizations, as well as their respective countries. ☒



From left to right: the RFPN members from Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia

SEAFDEC organizes the Third Joint Community-based Aquaculture Training and Workshop

SEAFDEC organized the 3rd Joint Regional Training Workshop on Community-based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Area of Southeast Asia on 7-17 July 2009 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Training Workshop was attended by participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam; resources persons from partner organizations, *i.e.* ASEAN, DOF Thailand, DLF and LARReC of Lao PDR, WWF-Lao PDR, MRC, AIT, and SEAFDEC Secretariat and AQD; and officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat.

The training was aimed at improving the knowledge, techniques and ability of participants through capacity building



Participants separated into groups to discuss and obtained information from rural fish farmers during the study visit at Nam Houm Reservoir in Lao PDR

and sharing experiences to support the promotion of community-based freshwater aquaculture in remote rural areas of Southeast Asia. The topics covered by the training included community-based fisheries management; aquaculture for poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood, and food security; aquaculture-based rural livelihood program planning; fisheries extension and participatory technology transfer and freshwater aquaculture techniques for rural development focusing in indigenous fish species. The training session comprised lectures and study visits (both in Lao PDR and Thailand) to observe and gain better understanding on community-based aquaculture activities that contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods.

On 16 July 2009 as part of the event, the Regional Workshop on Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security was organized to discuss and develop policy recommendations on the contribution of fisheries to food security through the promotion of community-based freshwater aquaculture for remote rural areas of Southeast Asia, in

accordance with the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategies Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS). The workshop identified the priority issues and constraints in achieving food security and livelihoods through fisheries and aquaculture intervention at the local level, as well as the possible ways/ approaches/ strategies to tackle the problem/ issues. While acknowledging the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in enhancing food security and livelihoods at the local and national levels, the Workshop suggested that the discussion and recommendations made from Workshop should be considered by SEAFDEC and other fisheries-related international/regional organizations in the further development of relevant regional policy framework and programs of activities to enhance the contribution from fisheries and aquaculture to food security and livelihood. It is envisaged that this would further contribute to the implementation of the AIFS Framework and the SPA-FS, particularly in the fisheries sub-sector. In addition, the recommendations from the Workshop could also be used as a basis for Member Countries in the formulation of programs and activities to enhance the contribution from fisheries to food security at the local/national levels. ❖

On-site training on responsible fishing for HRD in Southeast Asian countries organized

TD organized on-site training sessions for the Human Resource Development (HRD) Activities on Responsible Fishing Technology in Thailand, Lao PDR and the Philippines on 14-18, 21-25 and 28-30 September 2009, respectively. The objectives of the on-site activities are: 1) to strengthen the capacity on fisheries management based on responsible fishing technology, 2) to transfer the technical knowledge on suitable fishing gear to small-scale fish farmers, and 3) to promote the importance of fish handling methods to improve the quality of fish catch. With participants

comprising fishermen and fisheries officers, the training course consisted of



lectures and discussions on responsible fishing concepts, code of conduct for responsible fisheries, selective fishing gear, improvement of fish preservation by chill box, among others. ❖

On-site training on responsible fishing in Lao PDR

Two international workshops organized by TD

In July 2009, TD organized two international workshops: 1) The End-of-Project Meeting of the Working Party on Information Collection of Economically Important Species as Surimi Raw Materials in the Southeast Asian Region; and 2) The 1st Regional Workshop on Information Gathering and Cetacean Research in the Southeast Asian Waters.

The End-of-Project Meeting of the Working Party on Information Collection of Economically Important Species as Surimi Raw Materials in the Southeast Asian Region was organized at the SEAFDEC Training Department in Samut Prakan, Thailand from 1 to 2 July 2009. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the participating Southeast Asian countries in the Project, namely: Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. This Meeting is the last activity of the Project on “Information Collection for Economically Important Species as Surimi Raw Materials in Southeast Asian Region” which was initiated by the SEAFDEC/TD under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group collaborative mechanism and funded by the Japanese Trust Fund. The Meeting was aimed at: i) reviewing the major achievements of the Project; ii) assessing the potential fish species that could be used as Surimi raw materials; and iii) formulating recommendations for the future sustainable development of the Surimi industry in the region. The most significant outcomes from the Project include an analysis of the trend of Surimi materials in Southeast Asia as well as that of the status of the Surimi industry in Southeast

Asia, the results of which have been included in the Report on the Trend of Surimi Raw Materials in Southeast Asia and Report on the Status of Surimi Industry in Southeast Asia.

The 1st Regional Workshop on Information Gathering and Cetacean Research in the Southeast Asian waters was held from 30 to 31 July 2009 at the SEAFDEC Training Department in Samut Prakarn, Thailand. Attended by 31 participants from Cambodia, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Indonesia and Thailand, the workshop aimed to review and discuss the SEAFDEC cetacean research program, the information on whales/dolphins, and habitats of cetaceans in the Southeast Asian countries. The outcomes from the workshop included an inventory of the cetacean species, whale/dolphin watching hotspots, inventory of dead cetaceans appearing in the coastal areas and on seashore, which could be used to plan and manage future research programs on cetaceans. ☒



Participants attending the workshop on Surimi (above) and Cetaceans (below)

Biotoxin project starts off

The Regional Technical Consultation Meeting on Biotoxins Monitoring in ASEAN was organized by MFRD from 26 to 28 August 2009 in Singapore, and was attended by 19 participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries, and Dr Toshiyuki Suzuki, expert from the National Research Institute of Fisheries Science of Japan. This Consultation Meeting was the first activity of the Project on Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products - Biotoxins Monitoring in ASEAN to be implemented by MFRD from 2009 with support from the Japanese Trust Fund.

During the Meeting, the participants made brief presentations on the status of the biotoxins monitoring system in the fisheries industry in their respective countries. Dr Suzuki then made a presentation on the biotoxins monitoring system in Japan. After the presentations, the meeting discussed and identified the training needs and capabilities available in each SEAFDEC Member Country and proposed the key project leaders for the project.

From the discussion, it was agreed that the Regional Training Course on Biotoxins Analysis would be held in Singapore in mid 2010, with 1-2 invited trainers from Japan. It was also suggested that the Course should cover the multi-component: Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) and lipophilic toxins analysis using High Performance Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS-MS) and PP2A kit, Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) analysis using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and a commercially available ELISA method, and Tetrodotoxin (TTX) analysis using HPLC or LC-MS-MS as requested by member countries. In addition, the meeting also discussed and agreed on the conduct of a survey on biotoxins in fish and fish products (e.g. baby clam or green mussel) by the individual countries in 2011. ☒

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer
2009			
28 Sep-2 Oct	Catbalogan, Samar, Philippines	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Rural Aquaculture [Abalone Cage Culture]	AQD
5-9 October	Bangkok, Thailand	2 nd FAO-SEAFDEC Workshops on the Assessment of Fishery Stock Status in South and Southeast Asia	FAO-TD
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
6 Oct 09-26 Feb 10	TD, Thailand	Training Course on Fishing Vessel Operation for Tinsulanonda Fisheries College	TD
12-14 October	Ayutthaya, Thailand	10 th SEAFDEC Information Staff Exchange Program (ISEP) Meeting	TD
12-16 October	Vientiane, Lao P.D.R	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Local/Indigenous Institution and Co-Management	TD
12-22 October	TD, Thailand	Short-term Training Course on Fishing Technology for University Student#48	TD
20-22 October	Phuket, Thailand	Meeting of the Sub Regional: Andaman Sea	SEAFDEC/Sida
20-23 October	Boyolali, Indonesia	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Rural Aquaculture [Catfish, Clarias gariepinus, Culture]	AQD
20-23 October	Boyolali, Indonesia	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Inland Fisheries Development	MFRDMD
26-31 October	TD, Thailand	Short-term Training Course on Fishing Technology for Ubonrachathani University	TD
26 Oct-4 Nov	TD, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Co-management Using Group User Rights for Enhancing Small-scale Fisheries Development and Management	TD
3-6 November	TD, Thailand	Inception Workshop on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discard in Trawl Fisheries	TD
3-20 November	TD, Thailand	Individual Training Course on Tuna Long-line Fishing	TD
5-7 November	TD, Thailand	Regional Workshop on Institutional Design of Co-management for Promotion of Using Indicators and Participation	TD
7-12 November	Brunei Darussalam	31 st Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (and related meetings)	ASEAN
11-17 November	Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Rural Aquaculture [Nursery and Grow-out of High-Value Species: Seabass, Grouper, Snapper, Mudcrab]	AQD
16-18 November	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia	32 nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee	SEAFDEC
16-22 November	Myanmar	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Rural Aquaculture [Mudcrab and Tilapia Culture]	AQD
19-20 November	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia	12 th Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG)	SEAFDEC
23-29 November	Ayeyawady, Myanmar	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Inland Fisheries Development	MFRDMD
24 Nov-17 Dec	TD, Thailand	International Training Course on Coastal Fisheries Management and Extension Methodology	TD
Nov-Dec (Tentative)	Tien Hai, Thai Binh Province, Vietnam	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Rural Aquaculture [Freshwater Aquaculture: Tilapia, Freshwater Prawn, Catfish, Carp]	AQD
Nov-Dec (Tentative)	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	HRD on Poverty Alleviation through Fisheries Intervention: On-site Training on Rural Aquaculture [scope to be identified]	AQD
2010			
19-21 January	Bangkok, Thailand	Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Information and Statistics	Secretariat
2-4 February	Bangkok, Thailand	Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-related Issues 2010	Secretariat

New Publications

May also be downloaded from www.seafdec.org.ph

- **AQD officials & commodity contact persons**, a set of bookmarks
- **Hatchery seedstock**, a flyer detailing prices and payment of various seedstock for sale at AQD
- **AQD laboratory services**, a flyer on various diagnostic services and payment rates
- **Aquaculture training**, a flyer containing schedule, fees, contact information on AQD's training programs, including internships and on-the-job training
- **Backyard hatchery**, a flyer on the abalone and marine fish small scale hatchery newly built by AQD in the Philippines to showcase the technology on multi-species hatchery operations
- **Seed production of bighead carp**, a flyer
- **Grow-out production of bighead carp**, a flyer
- **Seed production of giant freshwater prawn**, a flyer
- **Grow out production of giant freshwater prawn**, a flyer
- **Mud crab culture**, a flyer
- **Hatchery and nursery of grouper**, a flyer
- **Grow out culture of grouper**, a flyer

HRD Workshop on FOVOP in Myanmar and the Philippines

(Continued from Page 16)

in by 27 participants from the government officers and representatives from fisheries communities. The workshop reviewed and adopted the regional strategy on the promotion of FOVOP in the ASEAN region; and finalized the ten potential products, communities/villages, and beneficiary associations, as well as identified the advantages/uniqueness of each product and its needed support.

At the end, the workshop concluded that although the potential products have established processing technology but needs enhancement on capability building on GMP/SSOP/HACCP and packaging and labeling; the potential services have been established but needs enhancement on promotion and marketing; the potential communities are well organized and have government support but needs strengthening on capability building, market promotion, and access to credit; there is a need to prioritize products for those with varied product lines as part of their marketing strategy; agreed that the identified potential products/services and communities will be implemented in the Philippines by BFAR in collaboration with the local government units and other agencies starting 2010; and finally agreed that the identified potential communities will implement productivity and quality improvement measures to ensure products/services competitiveness. ❖

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.

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New ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference planned in 2011

During the past decade, SEAFDEC has been supporting the ASEAN Member Countries in the implementation of activities to address the various issues towards the sustainable development of fisheries, as guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region adopted by the ASEAN Ministers at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2001. However, with the change in fisheries situation and the emerging fisheries-related issues during the past ten years, SEAFDEC and ASEAN, with support from the ASEAN Foundation, are joining hands to organize the Conference, entitled “the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security towards 2020” in 2011.

To start off the preparation process of the Conference, the proposal for the organization of the Conference was submitted to the 41st SEAFDEC Council (7-10 April 2009 in Fukuoka,

Japan), and to the 17th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (3-5 June 2009 in Vietnam) for endorsement. To follow-up the decisions and recommendations made by the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi, SEAFDEC has prepared a detailed proposal, including program and required preparatory work, and submitted to the Special SOM-30th AMAF Meeting, held in Ho Chi Min in early August 2009. During the Meeting, the proposed Conference was endorsed and was regarded as among highest priority activities, taking into account the considerable contribution from fisheries to food security and poverty alleviation in the region.

To proceed with, the Organizing Committee, Technical Sub-Committee and Administrative Sub-Committee of the Conference were established; and the Preparatory Meeting of the Technical Sub-Committee of the Conference, and

the First Administrative Sub-committee Meeting of the Conference were organized on 1 and 30 September 2009, respectively. During these two Meetings, the Conference organizational structure, technical themes and sub-themes, and technical/administrative preparatory works were discussed and tentatively agreed, and several working groups were established to proceed with the required works. It was planned that the First Meeting of the Organizing Committee for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference would be held in mid November 2009 to provide recommendations and advice on the Conference scope, framework, organizational structure, workplan, as well as all the required preparatory works in order to ensure that the Conference would address the priority issues and needs of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Countries and contribute to the sustainable contribution of fisheries to food security for people in the region.



HRD Workshop on FOVOP in Myanmar and the Philippines

During the third quarter of 2009, SEAFDEC Secretariat promoted the implementation of FOVOP in the ASEAN Member Countries based on the Regional Strategy for the Promotion of FOVOP and the FOVOP project ideas and activities agreed at the regional level during the Regional HRD Workshop on the Promotion of FOVOP in the ASEAN Region held in August 2008. Two ASEAN-SEAFDEC HRD Workshops on the Promotion of FOVOP in Myanmar were conducted in collaboration with DOF Myanmar from 3-5 August 2009 in Maubin, Ayeyarwaddy Division; and 6-8 August 2009; in Bago Division, Myanmar; and another ASEAN-SEAFDEC HRD Workshops on the Promotion of FOVOP in Myanmar were conducted from 24-28 August 2009 in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines 2009.

For Myanmar, the workshops were participated in by the government officials

and representatives from fisheries communities in which 24 participants were from Maubin District, Ayeyarwaddy Division while 45 participants were from Bago Division. The workshops succeeded in building capacity on the Regional Strategy; and key important issues in support of development and promotion of FOVOP, *i.e.* as 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, and Traditional Product Processing for the Promotion of FOVOP in Myanmar. The workshop also concluded 10 potential FOVOP Communities and Products for Myanmar, as well as the required activities and



Participants of the HRD FOVOP Workshop in Maubin, Ayeyarwaddy Division, Myanmar

support to further promote and implement FOVOP in Myanmar.

For the Philippines, SEAFDEC in collaboration with BFAR organized the workshop in Cagayan De Oro City. The workshop was participated

(Continued on Page 15)