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## EDITORIAL

During the first quarter of 2015, SEAFDEC is delighted to welcome the SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand Dr. Joompol Sanguansin as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2015-2016, succeeding Mr. Lee Kwong Weng, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore who served as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2014-2015, and later succeeded by Dr. Tan Lee Kim. During the recently-convened 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the good progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2014 were noted by the Council, and subsequently, the proposed program of activities to be undertaken by SEAFDEC in 2015 were approved. The Council appreciated the establishment of IFRDMD as the fifth SEAFDEC Department as the region's inland fisheries could now be given more focus leading to the sustainable development and management of the region's inland fishery resources. The Council also provided directives on important issues and future activities of SEAFDEC in enhancing the

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## SEAFDEC holds its 47<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Thailand

The Forty-seventh Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held from 31 March to 3 April 2015 and hosted by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The Inaugural Ceremony of the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was

held on 31 March and presided over by Dr. Wimol Jantrarotai, the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand. The Meeting unanimously  
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*Dr. Joompol Sanguansin (left), the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2015-2016, and Dr. Wimol Jantrarotai (right), the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives during the Inaugural Ceremony*

## SEAFDEC formalizes MOU with CTI-CFF

On 3 April 2015, in conjunction with the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held in Chiang Rai, Thailand, SEAFDEC and the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) reached the stage where the collaborative arrangement between the two organizations was realized through the signing of the MOU by the Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Dr. Widi A. Pratikto and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri.

The collaboration between the CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC has been discussed since 2013, starting with the conduct of the Intergovernmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT). Since



*Signing of MOU between SEAFDEC and the CTI-CFF*

then, several technical activities had already been undertaken by SEAFDEC in the overlapping spatial areas of the CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC, e.g. the Project on Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch

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## EDITORIAL

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competitiveness of the fisheries sector of the region. Significant steps have also been made by SEAFDEC in launching the database on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Vessels 24 meters in Length and Over, which is envisaged to support further initiatives of countries in combating IUU fishing in the region.

Another important event, which was held back-to-back with the SEAFDEC Council Meeting, was the signing of the MOU between the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and SEAFDEC, which would serve as platform for cooperation particularly for activities to be undertaken in the overlapping spatial areas of the CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC.

Also in the first quarter of 2015, several training courses were conducted by SEAFDEC, including the regional training course and training of trainers on essential ecosystem approach to fisheries management; the regional training course on fish handling techniques applicable to various fishing operations in Southeast Asia; and the training courses on soft-shell crab farming, mangrove crab culture and milkfish farming operations.

SEAFDEC also welcomed the new Deputy Chief of the IFRDMD, Dr. Satoshi Honda whose expertise is on fish stock assessment; and the new Deputy Chief of MFRDMD, Dr. Osamu Abe who was once the Deputy Chief of MFRDMD. The new members of the SEAFDEC Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) for 2015 were also welcomed, and tasked to play the important role of sustaining the coordination and communication between SEAFDEC and their respective countries in the near future. ❖

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on our Newsletter to  
[secretariat@seafdec.org](mailto:secretariat@seafdec.org).

## SEAFDEC holds its 47<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Thailand

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elected the Council Director for Thailand, Dr. Joompol Sanguansin as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2015-2016.

While noting the good progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2014, and approving the program proposed to be undertaken in 2015, the Council expressed appreciation to the establishment of Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) as the fifth SEAFDEC Department to promote sustainable development and management of inland fishery resources in Southeast Asia. The Council then provided directives on important issues, particularly on the implementation of CITES related activities, *e.g.* on improving data collection on sharks and rays, and regional approach and preparation for the upcoming CITES COP-17 in October 2016. The Council subsequently approved in principle the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products for IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain, and noted the progress on the development of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Vessels 24 meters in Length and Over and agreed to launch the RFVR Database. On the ASEAN Catch Documentation

Scheme (ACDS), the Council suggested that SEAFDEC should convene a stakeholders' consultation in order to ensure the applicability of the ACDS in the region and communicate with the importing markets.

The Council endorsed the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) in the ASEAN Region and the TORs of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment, as well as the Regional Policy Recommendations on Conservation and Management of the Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Eel Aquaculture; and endorsed in principle the Policy Recommendations for Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients in Aquaculture Feed Formulations. The Council also supported the Concept Note for the conduct of High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community 2015 for further discussion at the next meeting of the ASWGFi, as well as the Concept Note on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). At the closing of the Meeting, it was noted that the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2016 would be hosted by Viet Nam.



During the discussion session of the 47<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting



## SEAFDEC formalizes MOU with CTI-CFF

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Management” (REBYC-II CTI Project), promotion of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), and conservation and management of fishery resources in the Coral Triangle area, etc.

The establishment of this collaborative arrangement would therefore serve as a platform for sharing of knowledge and experiences gained from the past works of both CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC for the benefit of Member Countries of the two organizations. Future areas for cooperation could also include those on human resources development, research and development, consultancy, information management and networking, and other possible areas that could be agreed upon by both parties.



## SEAFDEC at the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries

The SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri attended the “Global Conference on Inland Fisheries, Freshwater, Fish and the Future”, which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU) on 26-28 January 2015 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Attended by scientists, policy makers, and the international development community, the Conference discussed the food security, economic, and ecological issues associated with inland fisheries around the world in order to address the challenges and opportunities for inland fisheries at cross-sectoral levels on a global scale. The presentations and discussion covered four (4) themes, namely: 1) Biological Assessment; 2)



Economic and Social Assessment; 3) Drivers and Synergies; and 4) Policy and Governance. Considering that this global conference covered multi-sectoral issues, it is anticipated that the profile of inland fisheries could be raised and better incorporated in agricultural, land use, and water resource planning through development of improved assessment frameworks and value estimation.



## Fish diseases discussed in Viet Nam

Two SEAFDEC/AQD scientists attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA9) held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam from 24 to 28 November 2014.

During the conference, Dr. Rolando Pakingking Jr talked about his study on the load and composition of the bacterial microbiota of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) cultured in earthen ponds in the Philippines. He reported that a total of 20 bacterial genera and 31 species were identified, majority of which were gram-negative constituting 84% of the overall bacterial isolates examined. The bacteria identified as *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Bacillus* spp., *Plesiomonas shigelloides*, *Shewanella putrefaciens*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Staphylococcus* spp., and *Vibrio cholerae* were dominant in the

fish, the pond sediment and rearing water, except *S. putrefaciens* and *V. cholerae* which are not present in the water samples. According to Dr. Pakingking, this only indicates that resident bacteria in the pond water and sediment typify the composition of bacterial microbiota in the gills and intestine of tilapia. He added that this bacterial microbiota in the gills and intestine of tilapia may cause disease epizootics under stressful conditions.

Dr. Eleanor Tendencia on the other hand, presented two posters namely “Effect of different salinities (5, 20, 37 ppt) at low temperature (22°C) on WSSV infected shrimp” and “Two-month-mortality syndrome and other problems encountered by shrimp farmers in the Philippines”. Dr. Tendencia’s first poster showed the results of the study that there is no significant difference in shrimp mortality and viral load among the shrimp infected with white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) reared at different water salinities (5, 20, 37 ppt). The second poster of Dr. Tendencia, focused on the two-month-mortality

syndrome (TMMS) that is one of the major problems faced by shrimp farmers in the Philippines who are into extensive polyculture. Other problems faced by shrimp farmers such as protozoan infestation in the gills, the cooked-like appearance of live shrimp, and environmental problems like pollution were also shown in the poster. To avoid these problems, some of the preventive measures recommended are proper implementation of the greenwater culture system and organic farming.

Prior to this conference, Dr. Pakingking also represented AQD at the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health on 22-23 November 2014, also held at Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The Advisory Group was established by the Governing Council of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) to provide advice to NACA members in the Asia-Pacific region on aquatic animal health management. Dr. Pakingking was also elected as the new Vice Chairperson of the Advisory Group.



# DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

## AQD trains various stakeholders on soft-shell crab farming, culture of mangrove crabs and milkfish farming

For the first quarter of 2015, AQD had already conducted three training courses on: 1) soft-shell crab farming; 2) mangrove crab culture; and 3) milkfish farming operations. A total of 40 participants attended these courses.

The “*soft-shell crab farming*” training course was held at AQD’s Dumangas Brackishwater Station with participants from Santeh Feed Corporation. AQD crab experts Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa and Dr. Emilia Qunitio discussed with the participants the biology of mangrove crab species; nursery management; grow-out culture in ponds, pens, and cages; and soft-shell production. The trainees also had practical sessions on soft-shell crab production.



*AQD scientists Dr. Emilia Qunitio (left picture); and Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa (right picture) showing participants the distinguishing features of different mangrove crab (mud crab) species*

On the other hand, the training course on “*Nursery and grow-out culture of mangrove crabs (mud crabs)*” organized by AQD and Winrock International was held at Northern Mindanao School of Fisheries (NMSF) campus in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, Philippines. The participants included mangrove crab (mud crab) growers from Agusan, Surigao and Dinagat Island, Philippines as well as fish growers interested in diversifying their crops, some faculty members of NMSF and technical staff for the fisheries project of Winrock International. Students enrolled in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Program

of NMSF also attended the course as observers.

The course comprised of lectures and practical sessions on different aspects of mangrove crab production. Lecture topics included: an overview of the mangrove crab industry (in the Philippines, the region and the world); biology of mangrove crab; hatchery, nursery and grow-out production systems; feeds and feeding management; and value-addition (fattening, production of soft-shell crabs). The hands-on sessions included: identification of the

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*A trainee checks the water quality in mud crab nursery pond*



*Participants showing their training certificates together with AQD crab experts Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa (rightmost) and Dr. Emilia Qunitio (second from right)*



*Trainees during the stocking of crablets*



## RFPN members unite to strengthen cooperation among SEAFDEC Member Countries

In 2015, eight (8) RFPN members from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam have been nominated to be stationed at the SEAFDEC Secretariat. They are fisheries and agriculture officers with different fields of specializations, e.g. fisheries management, agriculture and forestry, inland fisheries, fisheries regulatory and quarantine, aquaculture, capture fisheries, fisheries foreign affairs, and fishing vessel monitoring and surveillance.



(from left to right) Ms. Chin Leakhena (Cambodia), Ms. Sevi Sawestri (Indonesia), Ms. Pongsavanh Sengsomphou (Lao PDR), Ms. Hemalatha Raja Sekaran (Malaysia), Dr. Than Than Lwin (Myanmar), Ms. Marylene Mandreza (Philippines), Ms. Chutima Pokhun (Thailand) and Mr. Nguyen Van Phuc (Viet Nam)

During their terms at SEAFDEC, the RFPN members are expected to support the efforts of SEAFDEC in developing strategies to promote fisheries policy dialogues, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation among the Member Countries. Part of their responsibility is also to follow-up on the commitment of their respective countries in the implementation of regional fisheries policies. Upon realizing all of the stated tasks, the RFPN members would have learned to foster cooperation and

friendship among themselves and to commit to strengthen cooperation among SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Beside the aforementioned tasks, the RFPN members would play an active role in coordinating communication between SEAFDEC and their respective countries. They would also be provided with the

opportunity to participate in technical meetings, trainings and other events of SEAFDEC with a view of enhancing their knowledge and obtaining their views on regional fisheries related issues towards developing regional fisheries policy, as well as to contribute papers/write-ups for SEAFDEC publications.



## AQD trains various stakeholders on soft-shell crab farming, culture of mangrove crabs and milkfish farming

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different mangrove crab species; pond preparation; fabrication/construction and installation of nursery cages and shelters; packing, transport and stocking of crablets; feed preparation and computation of feed ration; monitoring of stocks and water quality parameters; and record keeping. During the training, a demo set-up for primary and secondary nursery was established. A demo pond for grow-out culture was also stocked with match-box-size crablets.

It was planned that after this training, the demo site would be managed by a technician from NMSF with technical support from SEAFDEC/AQD. The demo site would also serve as a field lab for students under NMSF's aquaculture program. The participants thanked the resource persons for the concepts and skills that they learned from the course.

They also expressed hope that mangrove crab hatcheries would be established in the region in the near future to address problems on supply of good quality seeds for mangrove crab farming.

Lastly, staff from Tonga's Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forests and Fisheries (MAFFF) finished a special course on "Milkfish farm management and operations" held at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station.

The training participants had lectures on broodstock management and spawning techniques; production of natural food organisms for fish larvae; and larval and nursery rearing techniques; as well as practical sessions on fry collection, stock sampling, monitoring and harvest. The trainees also visited farms in Iloilo and Capiz, Philippines that practice



A trainee practices water and soil analysis at AQD laboratory

intensive (Hautea Milkfish Farm), traditional (Bermejo Milkfish Farm), modular (Capiz State University Farm) and integrated (Roxas City Integrated Farm) methods of milkfish farming. The trainees were funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



## TD participates in celebration of National Children's Day


The National Children's Day in Thailand is traditionally celebrated on the second Saturday of the year. It largely receives widespread attention by the public, many government organizations, including the Prime Minister, and the military that staged their impressive shows for children as they are the future generation of the country.

On this occasion, the SEAFDEC Training Department joined Thailand to celebrate the National Children's Day on 11 January 2015 at Pathumthani Provincial Cooperative Office, and at the Prachunlajomklao Navy Dockyard at the mouth of the Chao Phraya River.

At Pathumthani Provincial Cooperative, TD supported by the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) put on display posters and other information materials and conducted games under the theme of fisheries resources conservation. A similar presentation was also put up at the Prachunlajomklao Navy Dockyard. Several groups of children, guided by their chaperons, were attracted to the TD activities.

In conjunction with the National Children's Day, TD also awarded scholarships to 200 students from four primary schools in Phrasamutchedi District nearby the TD premises on




10 January 2015. The scholarship fund came from the proceeds of the "SEAFDEC Mini-marathon: Fisherman Run 2014" which was organized by TD in conjunction with the celebration of the 47<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Anniversary on 28 December 2014. 

## Capacity building for TD staff on vessel inspection

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) foresees the need to enhance its staff's understanding and knowledge on Port State Measures (PSM) in order to effectively implement the project on "Promotion of countermeasure to reduce IUU fishing". Therefore, two staff from TD were supported by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project to participate in the "Training Workshop on Vessel Inspection and Enforcement Measures Against IUU Fishing Activities" which was organized with support from the Government of Singapore on 5-9 January 2015.

This training aimed to build awareness on the process of vessel inspection, and share experiences on port State measures and related issues in the region. The training availed of the

services of three certified trainers from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. Training topics include: MCS inspection preparation; inspection procedures & techniques; freezer/cold room inspection & volumetrics; IUU reporting mechanisms; portside inspection; species verification/identification; reporting requirements; actions following inspection, etc. Actual vessel inspection was also carried out as part of this training at the Jurong Fishing Port. 



Participants practicing on vessel inspection during the training workshop




## AQD librarian receives award



SEAFDEC/AQD Library Head Mr. Stephen Alayon with fellow awardee Ms. Elvira Lapuz. Both awardees were elected executive vice president and president, respectively, of the PLAI National Board of Trustees for 2015-2016

Congratulations to AQD Library Head Mr. Stephen Alayon! He received a Distinguished Service Award from the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) for his significant contributions and involvement in the activities of PLAI. Mr. Alayon was particularly recognized for his efforts in sharing relevant information on librarianship and in organizing conferences, seminars, and other continuing professional development activities that can enhance the competencies of librarians.

The award was given on 28 November 2014 at the Century Park Hotel, Ermita, Manila. 



## SEAFDEC representation at the Meetings of AFCC Steering Committee and ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce

SEAFDEC was represented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri at the “Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the ASEAN Multi-sectoral Framework for Climate Change, Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security”, which was held on 23-24 March 2015 in Bogor, Indonesia. The Meeting was attended by the Senior Officials of the ASEAN Member States, representatives from the ASEAN Sectoral Working Groups and Expert Groups concerned with Climate Change, Agriculture and Forestry, and representatives from Ad-hoc Steering Committee Partners including SEAFDEC.

During the Meeting, SEAFDEC presented an overview on its future programs in relation to the anticipated impacts of climate change to fisheries, which is in line with the Resolution on

Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers in 2011. The Resolution specified the responsibility of the ASEAN Member States to “Enhance resilience of fisheries communities to anticipate and adapt to changes in environmental conditions of inland and coastal waters, including those caused by climate change, which could adversely affect fisheries and aquaculture activities of fisheries communities”. Nevertheless, the roles of SEAFDEC would focus more on enhancing the preparedness and resilience of people especially in the fisheries sub-sector towards the anticipated changes in the environment through the implementation of relevant awareness-raising and capacity-building programs. In such pursuit, cooperation among relevant agencies would be enhanced in order that issues that loom

ahead could be properly addressed by various agencies including SEAFDEC in a more synergistic manner.

Subsequent to the 4<sup>th</sup> AFCC Steering Committee Meeting, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri also attended the “4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture”, which was hosted by the Government of Indonesia on 25-26 March 2015 in Jakarta. The Meeting provided the Taskforce focal point members with a platform to formally acknowledge Indonesia as the new Secretariat of the Taskforce, and finalized the plans for the continuation of the Taskforce and its activities after the conclusion of the USAID Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade Project (USAID MARKET) Project. ❖

## SEAFDEC at the Global Conference on Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015

From 23 to 27 March 2015, the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, Mr. Hajime Kawamura attended the “Global Conference on Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015” which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries of Cambodia in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The objective of the

Conference was to share experiences and information on the application of rights-based approaches to responsible fisheries and social development, particularly in areas where tenure governance is weak.

The Conference was attended by 140 participants from 38 countries, namely: Indonesia, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Mexico,

Iceland, French Polynesia, Argentina, Sierra Leone, Morocco, New Zealand, Senegal, USA, Cambodia, Mauritania, Thailand, Australia, UK, Pakistan, Turkey, Italy, South Africa, Kenya, Mauritius, Philippines, Japan, Republic of Marshall Islands, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, India, Benin, Belgium, Uruguay, Canada, Costa Rica, Maldives, and Norway. ❖



(left) the Conference participants; and (above) the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Hajime Kawamura and Ms. Rattana Tiaye representing SEAFDEC during the Conference

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the ASEAN region

By Liu Yankai, Scientist (Post-Harvest Technology Department, AVA) and Project Leader

At the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand in December 2014, a new project component on HABs in the ASEAN region was proposed and endorsed under the on-going project on “Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia”. This project component can potentially help Member Countries to improve their knowledge and understanding on toxic HAB occurrences in the region, as well as enhance Member Countries’ capabilities for the identification of biotoxin-producing HAB species in their waters.

During the End-of-Project Seminar for the Biotoxins Monitoring Project in 2012, Member Countries pointed out the importance of identifying biotoxin-producing Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) species to complement existing biotoxins monitoring programs and ensure that fish and shellfish are not contaminated with toxic algae or their toxins. Member Countries also suggested that MFRD consider undertaking a project on toxic HABs to enhance regional capabilities on the identification of biotoxin-producing HAB species. In response, MFRD has taken up this suggestion by including a new component on biotoxin-producing HAB species identification within its



Algal bloom on the beaches of Boracay Island, Philippines  
(Photo from Tumblr (Happy Dabbles))

### Box 1. Quick facts on HABs

#### What are HABs?

HABs are overgrowths of algae in water. Some produce dangerous toxins in fresh or marine water, but even non-toxic blooms hurt the environment and local economies.

#### What are the effects of HABs?

HABs can:

- Produce extremely dangerous toxins that can sicken or kill people and animals
- Create dead zones in the water
- Raise treatment costs for drinking water
- Hurt industries that depend on clean water

#### What causes HABs?

HABs need:

- Sunlight
- Slow-moving water
- Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous)

Note: Nutrient pollution from human activities makes the problem worse, leading to more severe blooms that occur more often.

#### Why are HABs a problem in ASEAN?

ASEAN is characterized by: 1) the highest production of aquaculture fish and shellfish in the globe, and thus the greatest impacts from HABs on these resources; 2) a diversity of harmful syndromes and causative organisms; 3) an apparent trend of increasing HABs throughout the region; and 4) an increasing trend toward regional eutrophication. The ecological and economic impacts of HABs in ASEAN are thus great and apparently increasing.

#### What are the key HAB species in ASEAN?

- *Cochlodinium polykrikoides* - a chain-forming dinoflagellate associated with massive fish kills.
- *Pyrodinium bahamense* var. *compressum* – chain-forming dinoflagellates that produce PSP toxins.
- *Alexandrium* - another dinoflagellate genus which contains PSP toxin-producing species.
- *Prorocentrum minimum* - causes mass mortality of aquaculture fish in Japan, Philippines, and Singapore.
- *Karenia mikimotoi* - forms red tides in western Japan and in other waters in Asia.
- *Phaeocystis globosa* - a prymnesiophyte which occasionally causes extensive blooms, leading to fish kills and mortality of the caged fish and lobsters in Chinese and Vietnamese waters.
- *Noctiluca* - a monospecific genus of large unarmoured heterotrophic dinoflagellates.





*Algal bloom by Noctiluca spp. in Nagasaki*

existing Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) project on “Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia”.

Consumption of a variety of shellfish and fish which have been contaminated by marine biotoxins causes an increasing number of human intoxications and even deaths around the world. The current JTF project is an extension of the project on Biotoxins Monitoring in ASEAN and aims to address the needs of Member Countries and continue with capacity building on the identification of biotoxin-producing HAB species through the new component.

The key stakeholders and beneficiaries of this project are the relevant agencies in the fisheries department of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries responsible for ensuring the safety of fish and shellfish for consumption and for monitoring and testing of fish and shellfish, the aquaculture farmers and harvesters of fish and shellfish, as well as domestic and international consumers of fish and shellfish.

This project will be implemented by the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (PHTC/AVA) as SEAFDEC’s Collaborating Centre for MFRD programmes, with participation from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The key project activities under this new component include a Regional Technical Consultation and a Regional Training Course in the identification of biotoxin-producing HABs. These activities, together with the current project activities on biotoxins monitoring in ASEAN, will culminate in a joint Technical Compilation publication and an End-of-Project Seminar. (See **Box 2** for more details).



Box 2. Key activities of the new project component on HABs	
Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on biotoxin-producing HAB species identification	A 2-day RTC will be held in Singapore in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015 to initiate this component of the project and plan for the required activities. All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries will be invited to the meeting and to participate in the activities. ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries will present country reports on toxic HAB occurrences and incidents in their waters, as well as their current methods of managing toxic HABs. The meeting will also initiate the process to establish a network or directory of responsible national authorities or HAB experts in the region.
Regional Training Course in biotoxin-producing HAB species identification	A 4-day training course will be conducted in Singapore in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016. The training course will be conducted by invited expert trainers and it is envisaged that the methods for identifying biotoxin-producing HAB species will be taught during the course. Two participants from each Member Country will be invited to attend this course. After the training course, Member Countries are recommended to apply what they have learned to set up the appropriate methodologies in their own laboratories for identifying biotoxin-producing HAB species in their waters.
Technical Compilation	The Technical Compilation of the project will be prepared and published in 2017. The Technical Compilation will comprise of the biotoxins analytical methods and biotoxins monitoring survey reports of the Member Countries, the methodologies for the identification of biotoxin-producing HAB species, the country reports on toxic HAB occurrences, incident and management in their waters, and the list or directory of responsible national authorities and HAB experts in Member Countries.
End-of-Project Seminar	The End-of-Project Seminar will be held in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2017. At the seminar, reports and results of the biotoxins monitoring surveys conducted by Member Countries, as well as country reports on HABs, will be presented and discussed. Member Countries will also have the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced during the project implementation, share their plans for future projects or activities nationally and regionally, and finalize the Technical Compilation for publication.

# REGIONAL PROGRAMS

## MFRDMD organizes Core Experts Meeting on Sharks and Rays

SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) organized a “Core Experts Meeting on Sharks and Rays in Southeast Asian Waters” from 3 to 4 March 2015 as part of the continuous efforts of SEAFDEC in the sustainable utilization of sharks and rays in Southeast Asian region. Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, the Meeting was attended by the representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD, as well as resource persons from the Fisheries Research Agency of Japan and the Department of Fisheries of Malaysia.

During the Meeting, up-to-date data on landing and trade of sharks and rays from the Member Countries,



and relevant regional initiatives on conservation and management of sharks and rays were presented. Subsequently, the new 5-year project on “Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region” to be implemented by MFRDMD from 2015-2019 with support from the Japanese

Trust Fund was introduced. The Meeting in particular discussed and agreed on sampling sites for data collection in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam in order that the study could cover the wide areas of the Andaman Sea, Indian Ocean, Gulf of Thailand, South China Sea, and Sulu Sea. ☒

## Workshop on transboundary fisheries and habitat management in the Gulf of Thailand

Working towards the sustainability of fisheries, attempts are being made by fisheries and environment agencies to improve fisheries and habitat management. For the Gulf of Thailand sub-region, the SEAFDEC-Sweden project has over the past couple of years provided a platform for countries bordering the Gulf of Thailand, namely: Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam, to discuss and look for more effective ways of improving the management of fisheries in order to sustain the fishery resources in this sub-region.

A major concern among the Gulf of Thailand countries is to ensure long-term utilization of the coastal and marine fishery resources in the Gulf of Thailand through sub-regional cooperation towards establishment and agreement on joint activities for the



*Participants at the National Workshop on Data Collection for Transboundary Fisheries and Habitat Management in Kampot Province, Cambodia*

management of transboundary fishery resources, especially the Indo-Pacific mackerels.

With support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden project, a series of activities were conducted among Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand during January-

March 2015. The “Bilateral Working Group Meeting between Cambodia and Viet Nam on Transboundary Species in the Gulf of Thailand” was convened on 3-5 February 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The objective of this

*(Continued on Page 11)*



## Regional Training Course and Training of Trainers on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

The SEAFDEC Training Department organized the “Regional Training Course on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (Essential EAFM)” from 2 to 8 March 2015 in Rayong Province, Thailand. Twenty-three (23) trainees engaged in fisheries and environment from SEAFDEC Member Countries participated in the course. The course provided basic

knowledge on EAFM process and how this can assist in decision-making for responsible and sustainable capture fisheries. Moreover, understanding the principles of co-management and how to foster cross-sector coordination was imparted to trainees through practice on the crucial skills of effective communication, facilitation and conflict management.

In addition, the “Essential EAFM Training of Trainers” was also organized back to back with the Regional Training Course on 10-12 March 2015. The participants of this training came from the Essential EAFM training course who had acquired EAFM skills so as to build up a pool of EAFM trainers in the region. ❖



(left) Twenty three Trainees of the E-EAFM Training Course; and (above) EAFM trainers practicing mini review session during the Essential EAFM Training of Trainers

## Workshop on transboundary fisheries and habitat management in the Gulf of Thailand

(Continued from Page 10)

Meeting was to discuss and formulate the Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for biological parameter surveys on the selected transboundary species in the Gulf of Thailand.

Subsequently, a series of national workshops and training for enumerators were conducted in Kampot Province, Cambodia (on 17-19 March 2015 for 20 participants), Rayong Province, Thailand (on 26-27 March 2015 for 15 participants) and Phu Quoc Island, Viet Nam (on 23-25 April 2015 for 15 participants). These events aimed to provide the entry point for the three participating countries to exchange knowledge and views on data collection, and develop the work plan to collect information on the transboundary species at the landing sites in each country.



The Bilateral Working Group Meeting between Cambodia and Viet Nam on Transboundary Species in the Gulf of Thailand

During the workshops, the SOPs were developed and agreed by the participating countries together with the work plan for data collection. It was also agreed that catch and landing data, and biological data of three transboundary species, namely: short mackerel, short-

head anchovy and blue swimming crab would be compiled. It is expected that the output from this joint activity could facilitate the development of joint management plans of the three countries for the sustainable utilization of such transboundary species. ❖



## Sub-regional technical meeting on tuna research in Sulu and Sulawesi Seas

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) in collaboration with Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) organized the “Working Group Meeting and Technical Meeting on Joint Program on Tuna Research in Sulu and Sulawesi Seas (SSSs)” from 10 to 11 February 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand with support from

the Japanese Trust Fund. The Meeting was attended by 30 participants from participating Member Countries namely: Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines, as well as staff of SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and MFRDMD. Dr. Tom Nishida from Fisheries Research Agency of Japan also participated as a resource person. The Meeting came up with the progress report



of the survey activities implemented by the Project’s Participating Countries on data collection at selected landing sites; the progress of the historical data collection and future works for stock assessments; the agreed timeframe of activities in year 2015 for the joint research program on tuna research in SSSs; and the final cruise plan for research activities in SSSs using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the year 2015 which was adopted by the participating countries. ❖

## Fish handling techniques training course

SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized at its premises the “Regional Training Course on Fish Handling Techniques Applicable to Various Fishing Operations in Southeast Asia” from 9 to 13 March 2015. Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, the course was attended by 24 trainees from SEAFDEC Member Countries, and resource persons, namely: Dr. Varatip Somboonyarithi and Ms. Supaporn Sirimanuyutt from the DOF Thailand and Ms. Rituko Hayashi from Japan. This training course aimed to promote food safety and minimize post-harvest losses during catching, storing and transportation process of the fish by



providing knowledge on fish handling tools and simple techniques to maintain quality of the catch, and facilitating the sharing/exchange of views and ideas among countries on practical skills and concepts related to reduction of fisheries post-harvest losses.

refrigeration seawater cooling system, flake/sherbet ice, brine system and preparation of brine onboard, utilization and handling of brine for tuna freezing. Demonstrations were subsequently made on improvement of fish handling using techniques, such as fishes hold and fishes box, icing techniques and box practices, iced seawater chilling system (CSW) and preparation for fish unloading and transportation. Group works were subsequently assigned for trainees to discuss on strategy for improving fish handling for coastal and offshore fisheries of Southeast Asia. ❖



During the course, trainees were imparted with knowledge on fish handling techniques, and important key factors for reducing post-harvest losses onboard. Refrigeration system for commercial fishing vessels were introduced, e.g.



## Tuna fisheries resources survey in Sulu and Sulawesi Seas

The M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is used for conducting the second phase of collaborative tuna resources and oceanographic surveys within the jurisdictions of Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas from 20 March to 13 May 2015. The overall goal of the program is to come up with updated scientific findings on the status and trends of yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in this area, and to strengthen collaborative research among the three countries surrounding the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, through the conduct of: 1) study on the use of FADs in the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas; 2) assessment of the status and trends of tuna stocks and estimate maximum sustainable yield; and 3) awareness raising program for stakeholders on sustainable exploitation and management of tuna.

Studies undertaken during this survey include: 1) survey and research on tuna early life history using fish larvae sampling net and Bongo net in the near-shore and off-shore of the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas in order to determine the relative abundance and species composition of the fish larvae; 2) oceanographic survey using the

Integrated Conductivity-Temperature and Depth (ICTD) attached with sensors, namely: pH, DO, fluorescence, among others; 3) study using scientific echosounder during the cruising track survey; and 4) scanning sonar survey on the FADs, and fish sampling by specific sampling gears for echo verification.



## Eel fisheries research in Member Countries

While the IUCN had listed the American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) as endangered in the IUCN Red List in November 2014, it is possible that the listing of other eel species, e.g. the Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*) and short-finned eel (*Anguilla bicolor*) in the CITES Appendices could be proposed at the CITES COP-17 scheduled in South Africa in 2016. An international meeting has been conducted to discuss the conservation of Japanese eels, leading to agreement among Japan, China, Republic of Korea and Taiwan to reduce the utilization of glass eel as aquaculture seeds by 20%. The four parties are working towards making this arrangement as a working agreement. Meanwhile, the Government of Indonesia has enforced the regulation to refrain from exporting eel species smaller than 150 grams; while the Philippines is also in the process of developing a framework for conservation of eels, with the same regulation.

For SEAFDEC, a series of activities were undertaken with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. Research surveys



*Fisher using a hand-held scoop net to capture glass eels at the Cimandiri River mouth, Pelabuhan Ratu Bay*

were conducted in Indonesia on 14-19 January 2015 in Bengkulu Province, Pelabuhan Ratu (West Jawa), and Poso (Central Sulawesi); and on 7-15 March 2015 in Bengkulu (Southwest Sumatra). These two areas have abundance of glass eels and elvers in their rivers and estuaries (collected by a scoop net at night time), especially in Pelabuhan Ratu Bay facing the Indian Ocean. The Poso Lake which is situated in Poso, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia is considered a crucial habitat for eels in this Island; while Bengkulu which is situated at the Southwest of Sumatra is also one of the locations where fishers collect juvenile or yellow eels from upstream water using trap and



*Fyke net as one of fishing gear used for catching glass eel in Poso, Central Sulawesi*

transport them to Jakarta or Bogor for nursery and raising to reach marketable size prior to processing into “*kabayaki*” and exported mainly to Japan. In addition to activities in Indonesia, an observation trip was also carried out in Tuguegarao (Northern Luzon, Philippines) on 13-17 February 2015 in Aparri River which is known to be an important eel habitat. Fence net is mainly used to collect glass eels in the estuary. Further investigation on the species identification will be made on the collected glass eel and larger eel samples. The survey could be extended to the Andaman Sea side of Myanmar to cover the wider area of distribution of the species in the region.



# FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
<b>2015</b>			
22-24 April	Phu Quoc, Viet Nam	National Workshop and Training of Enumerators for Data Collection for Transboundary Fisheries and Habitat Management in the Gulf of Thailand: Cambodia-Thailand-Viet Nam	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
27-30 April	Lao PDR	Training of Trainers (ToT) on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Fisheries Management: Effective Implementation and Extension of the Co-management and CBFM in Lao PDR	TD
28 April	Bangkok, Thailand	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Annual Review Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
5-7 May	Bali, Indonesia	26 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of NACA Governing Council	NACA
6-26 May	Philippines	Training Course on Abalone Hatchery and Grow-out	AQD
6-8 May	Siem Reap, Cambodia	Training on Community-based Fisheries Management in Cambodia	TD
7-8 May	Brunei Darussalam	11 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on CITES	ASEAN
12-14 May	Viet Nam	Training of Trainers (ToT) on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Fisheries Management: Role and Function of Fishers Organization in the Implementation of CBFM in Viet Nam	TD
15-16 May	Calbayog, Philippines	REBYC-II CTI Project Planning Meeting (for June-December 2015)	TD
18-19 May	Calbayog, Philippines	3 <sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting for the REBYC-II CTI Project	TD
25-27 May	Langkawi, Malaysia	Expert Group Meeting on ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme	Secretariat & MFRDMD
26-28 May	Bangkok, Thailand	Regional Technical Meeting on Sharks and Rays Data Collection Project Planning Year 2015-2016	TD
26 May-17 Jun	Philippines	Training Course on Mangrove Crab Hatchery, Nursery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
2-4 June	Pattaya, Thailand	Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): Use and Way Forward of RFVR Database as a Management Tool to Reduce IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region	TD
3 June	Singapore	Roundtable Discussions at the ASEAN Aquaculture Industry Summit	ASEAN
8-9 June	Myanmar	7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)	ASEAN
10-12 June	Myanmar	23 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF <sub>i</sub> )	ASEAN
15-17 June	Viet Nam	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Working Group for Stock Assessment of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asian Region	Secretariat & MFRDMD
17 Jun-24 Jul	Philippines	Training Course on Marine Fish Hatchery	AQD
27-30 July	Pattaya, Thailand	Symposium on Strategy for Fisheries Resources Enhancement in the Southeast Asian Region	TD & AQD
17-21 August	Philippines	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
18-20 August	Thailand	Expert Group Meeting on Drafting the RPOA-Capacity	Secretariat
8 Sep-22 Feb 2016	On-line course	Distance Learning Course: Basic Principles of Health Management in Aquaculture	AQD
12-16 October	Philippines	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
17-18 November	Bangkok, Thailand	International Conference on Underwater Acoustics for Sustainable Fisheries in Asia	AFAS
23-25 November (Tentative)	Philippines	38 <sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM)	Secretariat & AQD
24 Nov-3 Dec	Philippines	Training Course on Community-based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast	AQD
26-27 November (Tentative)	Philippines	18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	Secretariat & ASEAN



## New Deputy Chiefs of IFRDMD and MFRDMD start tour of duty (Continued from Page 16)

support the Chief and work together with the staff in IFRDMD for the promotion of the inland fisheries in this region. Dr. Honda got his Ph.D. from Hokkaido University in Japan in 2003. While working as researcher since 1989, his previous work was on demersal fishes in the high latitudes. He has experiences in introducing and conducting fish stock assessment by combining acoustic and trawl surveys for stocks on nearshore areas of Northern Japan; age determination using otolith and scales of fish and fish stock assessment using methods of VPA, SPM and so on.

On the other hand, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2015, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD also welcomed its incoming Deputy Chief succeeding Dr. Masaya Katoh after his five years of excellent services at MFRDMD. Dr. Osamu Abe was the former Deputy Chief for MFRDMD from October 2007 till March 2010, before Dr. Masaya Katoh. As Dr. Abe is familiar with the duties in MFRDMD, he expressed his hope to continue enhancing the function of MFRDMD in the management of fishery resources in the years ahead.



## Tailor made program for Marine Fisheries Association of Malaysia

Five fisheries officers and ten fishers from Pangkor Island, Perak, Malaysia attended four-day tailor made program on Study Tour Visit for Marine Fisheries Association Member (Anchovy), organized by the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) in collaboration with the National Agriculture Training Council (NATC) of Malaysia from 13 to 16 January 2015 at TD in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The program was designed to discuss and exchange ideas on the advance fishing and processing technology of fishing industries in Thailand. Moreover, study visit to related places on fisheries processing and fisheries market was also conducted to enhance capacity building and experience of trainees.



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

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

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## RTC on Development of RPOA for Management of Fishing Capacity

Management of fishing capacity, which is a key element in fisheries management, focuses not only on the management of “fish” but also in regulating the fishing efforts by providing schemes to give direction on where and how to fish, total number of vessels allowed to fish, and types of gear that could be used in fishing.

Malaysia as lead country for the cluster on “Promoting sustainable fisheries practices-fishing capacity and responsible fisheries practices” as set forth in the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) Work Plan 2010-2012, has initiated the drafting of the Guidelines for Managing Fishing Capacity for the ASEAN Region. Anchoring on such draft, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries Malaysia organized the “First Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity in Southeast Asia” with funding

support from the Japanese Trust Fund and SEAFDEC-Sweden Project on 24-26 February 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Attended by more than 40 participants from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, representatives from FAO/RAP and RPOA-IUU Secretariat as well as SEAFDEC officers, the three-day RTC was aimed at providing a platform for the Southeast Asian countries to identify issues and challenges in managing fishing capacity in the region, and brainstorming on the contents and feasible measures as useful inputs of the



draft RPOA or Guidelines to ensure that these meet the requirements and specific situation with regards to fisheries and fishing capacity in the ASEAN region.



*Participants attending the RTC on Development of RPOA for Management of Fishing Capacity in Southeast Asian Countries*

## New Deputy Chiefs of IFRDMD and MFRDMD start tour of duty

In the first quarter of 2015, SEAFDEC welcomed Dr. Satoshi Honda and Dr. Osamu Abe as the new Deputy Chiefs of its Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD), and Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), respectively.



*Dr. Satoshi Honda*



*Dr. Osamu Abe*

The Chief of IFRDMD, Mr. Budi Iskandar Prisantoso welcomed Dr. Satoshi Honda, as Deputy Chief of IFRDMD since the middle of January 2015. A reception gathering took place on 13 January 2015 at the new building in Palembang, Indonesia. It was attended by Prof. Hari Eko Irianto, Director of Research Center for Fisheries Management and Conservation. In

his remarks, the IFRDMD Chief expressed the hope that IFRDMD, as a new department of SEAFDEC, could contribute to the development of inland fisheries. Besides the staff of IFRDMD, Mr. Hajime Kawamura, the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC also joined the event.

In his speech, Dr. Satoshi Honda expressed his sincere gratitude to be stationed at IFRDMD and hoped that all the staff of IFRDMD would work together as a solid team for promoting inland fisheries in the region. Since it is his first experience to handle inland fisheries and surrounding environments, the many new and fresh realization of the nature of inland fisheries, make him enjoy his assignment in this new field. He then expressed his willingness to

*(Continued on Page 15)*