

SEAFDEC holds the Forty-fourth Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, SEAFDEC held the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Nay Pyi Taw from 2 to 6 April 2012.

The Inaugural Ceremony of the Meeting was presided over by the

Honorable Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar, U Khin Maung Aye. During the Meeting, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar, U Khin Ko Lay, was unanimously elected as the new Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2012-2013, succeeding Dato' Ahamad Sabki bin



U Khin Ko Lay, elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2012-2013



Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar, U Khin Maung Aye together with SEAFDEC Council Directors during the Inaugural Ceremony of the 44th Council Meeting

Mahmood, the Council Director for Malaysia who served as the Chairperson for 2011-2012.

While taking note of the good progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2011, the Council approved the proposed program of activities to be undertaken in 2012, which were formulated to respond to the current fisheries situation,

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SEAFDEC takes on board Timor-Leste in its future activities

Situated in maritime Southeast Asia, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is bordered on the north by Ombai Strait, Wetar Strait and the greater Banda Sea, and on the south by Timor Sea which adjoins with some islands in north Australia. On its west, the country is adjacent to the Indonesian Province of East Nusa Tenggara. The geographical location Timor-Leste makes the country one of the eligible countries for membership in SEAFDEC. During its 44th Meeting in April 2012, the SEAFDEC Council discussed and agreed in principle the participation of Timor-Leste as observer in SEAFDEC meetings, considering that the country could become a member of the ASEAN in the near future.

In connection with the abovementioned decision, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri paid a courtesy visit with the Ambassador of Timor-Leste to Thailand, H.E. Mr. João Freitas de Câmara on 28 June 2012, to discuss the possibility of involving Timor-Leste in relevant SEAFDEC activities in the future.

During his visit, Dr. Chumnarn provided a brief background of SEAFDEC and the activities undertaken in the Southeast Asian region. He then emphasized that although Timor-Leste is not yet a member of SEAFDEC, but considering that Timor-Leste shares the same fishery ecosystems and resources with several Member Countries of



With Dr. Chumnarn are: (left) Ambassador of Timor-Leste to Thailand, H.E Mr. João Freitas de Câmara, and (right) First Secretary of Timor-Leste to Thailand, Ms. Atanasia Pires

SEAFDEC, the possible impacts of the activities undertaken by Timor-Leste on

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EDITORIAL

During the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, important directives were provided for the future operations of SEAFDEC. In particular on the SEAFDEC programming exercises which shall be enhanced, all ASEAN Member Countries were asked to implement activities in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action adopted during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011, of which the progress would be regularly monitored. In addition, discussions also focused on priority issues, particularly the initiatives towards combating IUU fishing, international fish trade-related issues, as well as those in enhancing the collection of technical/scientific information to serve as basis for science-based development and management of fisheries.

Furthermore, the proposal to establish the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRMD) as SEAFDEC Department in Indonesia was considered, and the involvement of Timor-Leste as observer in future SEAFDEC activities was approved, considering that the country could become a member of the ASEAN in the near future. This was made known to the Ambassador of Timor-Leste in Thailand by SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri during his courtesy visit with the Ambassador, where positive response was expressed.

In June 2012, SEAFDEC welcomed the appointment of the new Chief of the Aquaculture Department. Dr. Felix Ayson, who has been serving as an AQD scientist for over 25 years. SEAFDEC believes that with the vision and leadership of Dr. Ayson, AQD would continue to serve as the center of excellence for aquaculture in Southeast Asian of the region. ❖

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challenges and priorities of the Member Countries. The Council then emphasized on the importance of following-up on the recommendations of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”; and encouraged all ASEAN Member Countries to implement activities in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action adopted at the Conference. The Council also discussed a range of issues that are important to the sustainable development fisheries in the region and requiring greater attention and cooperation. In particular, the Council focused on combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as on international- and trade-related issues that may have impacts on fisheries development of the region, particularly the possible listing of species under CITES Appendices during its forthcoming 16th Conference of Parties, and the sharing of experiences among countries in the implementation of catch certification scheme.

While recognizing the initiative undertaken by SEAFDEC in the production and publication of “The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012”, the Council supported that activities of SEAFDEC in enhancing the collection of technical/scientific information should be intensified to provide better understanding and knowledge on the status and trends of



fisheries and aquaculture that could be used as a basis for policy planning and management of fisheries.

The Council then welcomed the proposal made by the Council Director for Indonesia, which was first raised by the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia during the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference, for the establishment of the “Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development” as part of the SEAFDEC organization. The Council expressed appreciation to Indonesia for the proposal considering the importance of inland fisheries to food security and livelihood of people in the region. As for the cooperation and partnership between SEAFDEC and relevant international/regional organizations and non-Member Countries, the Council urged SEAFDEC to seek more cooperation with relevant institutions/organizations including the Plus Three Countries under the ASEAN Framework. Furthermore, the Council also supported the proposal to invite Timor-Leste as observer in future SEAFDEC activities as appropriate.



SEAFDEC participates in the MRC International Conference to send message to “Rio+20”

SEAFDEC was represented during the “Mekong-2-Rio”, an International Conference on Transboundary River Basin Management convened by the Mekong River Commission on 1-3 May 2012 in Phuket, Thailand. Aiming to address issues related to sustainable management of transboundary water resources, with particular focus on water, food security and energy nexus, the Conference was attended by representatives from various River Basin Organizations and officials from national/regional/international agencies working on wide aspects relevant to water resources, *e.g.* environment, agriculture, fisheries, irrigation, hydro-power, socio-economics, etc., including SEAFDEC.

Considering that water, food and energy which are key strategic resources related to transboundary waters are usually addressed by different responsible authorities and sectors, the decisions and actions taken in one sector could create impact to other sectors. Nexus approach was therefore introduced to address the linkages and inter-dependencies across water, energy and food challenges, taking into consideration the transboundary context in order to ensure that the use of water resources for various purposes could be integrated in a balanced way.

During the Conference, various issues/challenges that could create pressures to future sustainable utilization



SEAFDEC Secretary-General visiting exhibition booths during the Conference

of water were identified, namely: the anticipated growth in global population and economic development (including industrialization and urbanization), the emerging energy crisis, the foreseeable more intense impacts of climate change, and the requirements/necessity for better management and fair/equitable sharing of benefits from transboundary water resources among concerned countries. Discussion was then made on the nexus of water, food security and energy, the linkages with the ecosystems and environment, as well as other crosscutting issues/challenges and factors that may impact the sustainable utilization of transboundary water resources across all sectors.

The Conference came up with key messages, which would be conveyed to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. At the concluding session, Ministers from the MRC countries (*i.e.* Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) and relevant RBOs also expressed their willingness and commitment to make use of the results of the Conference particularly the nexus of “water”, “food security” and “energy” to enhance better management of transboundary water resources in the future.



The Mekong-2-Rio International Conference

SEAFDEC takes on board Timor-Leste in its future activities

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the other countries and *vice versa* should be taken into consideration. Therefore, the involvement of Timor-Leste in the relevant activities of SEAFDEC in the future would be beneficial for the whole Southeast Asia.

While expressing his appreciation to SEAFDEC on such proposal, H.E. João Freitas highlighted the importance of fisheries to Timor-Leste. He then expressed the initial interest of his country to participate in the training courses offered by SEAFDEC as well as in the activities related to emerging international issues and requirements to enhance the country’s human capacity in fisheries. He also agreed to convey the message brought up by SEAFDEC to the relevant authorities in Timor-Leste in order to pursue closer collaboration in the future.



AQD 2011 Highlights

SEAFDEC/AQD 2011 Highlights, 56 pages, reports AQD’s accomplishments in its commodity-based programs and GOF-TF programs. AQD implemented 86 studies, published 36 science papers, trained 328 people in 26 training sessions, and disseminated 10 farmer-friendly publications to stakeholders. E-copy of this 2011 Highlights may be downloaded from the AQD website www.seafdec.org.ph/.



SEAFDEC/AQD 2011 Highlights

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

AQD trains pesticide regulators and resource managers

AQD hosted the training dubbed “Biotechnology 101” for regulators of DA-FPA (Department of Agriculture -Fertilizer & Pesticide Authority) at AQD’s Iloilo station from 30 April to 2 May 2012. The training was focused on agricultural biotechnology for government regulators in Visayas and Mindanao, Philippines, and included global developments and scenarios on crop biotechnology; program initiatives of DA-Biotech Program Office; food & environmental safety of genetically modified crops; principles & applications of biotechnology tools; and strategies in detecting genetic modification in crops.

With Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), AQD organized two of the three sessions of the training series on “Biodiversity

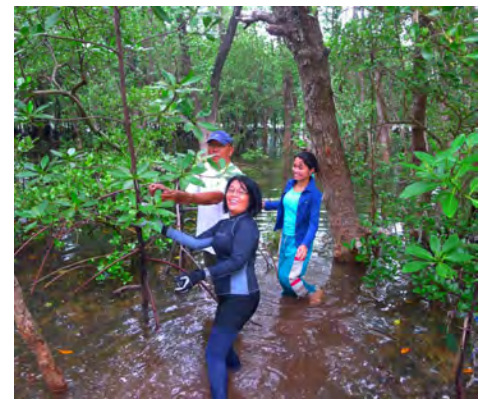
conservation projects for locally managed protected areas and principles of stock enhancement & habitat rehabilitation” at AQD’s main station in Iloilo. A total of 54 participants (*i.e.* resource managers) from DENR, DA-Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, and local government



(Above) Government regulators check out the method of in-vitro cell culture.

(Right) Resource managers try their hand at assessing a mangrove stand

units attended the first (19-25 April 2012) and second (17-24 May 2012) sessions. The course included lectures and demonstration on ecological coastal management; biodiversity conservation & resource enhancement; mangrove & coral reef ecosystems; genetics; and socio-bio economic strategies for resource enhancement. ❖



AQD conducts training on sandfish, mud crab and milkfish

In the second quarter of 2012, AQD conducted two international training courses on sandfish and mud crab, and one local course on milkfish in its main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo. All three carried the new lecture on the impact of climate change on aquaculture production, and were mostly hands-on sessions.

The 15-day training on “Sandfish Seed Production, Nursery, and Management” started on 25 April and had seven participants from Malaysia (5), England (1), and the Philippines (1). Among the topics covered were biology & ecology of sea cucumbers, in particular the sandfish *Holothuria scabra*; spawning induction & egg collection; larval rearing, nursery systems & grow-out culture; water quality; and principles of sustainable aquaculture. On behalf of the participants, Ms. Swee Yeap from Malaysia thanked the AQD experts

for helping them learn the how-tos of sandfish aquaculture.

On the other hand, the three-week “Mud Crab Hatchery, Nursery & Grow-out Operations” course (28 May-19 June) was attended by representatives from Sri Lanka (2), Malaysia (1) and the Philippines (6). The course provided participants with technical knowledge and skills in various operations of the mud crab *Scylla serrata* for sustainable livelihood and employment generation. “We are proud (to be part of AQD now)

and grateful to have this interaction with people of high calibre. It has been a very rewarding and pleasant experience to work with (AQD experts),” Mr. Dammika Yapa from Sri Lanka said.

AQD also organized a training on “Milkfish Hatchery, Nursery and Grow-out” from 13 to 15 June for 20 sales staff of BMEG, an animal and aquatic feeds company in the Philippines. AQD experts taught the basics of milkfish like its biology, nutrition, feeding, disease control and more. ❖



Trainees learn how to identify male/female crab and spawn the sandfish



AQD joins biodiversity celebration, river summit and library conference

AQD participated in the marine biodiversity lecture series at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, on 8 May 2012. AQD scientists Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Ramos and Dr. Teodora Bagarinao talked about biodiversity of mangroves and molluscs, respectively. This is in support of the “Month of the Ocean and International Day for Biological Diversity” celebration spearheaded by DENR (Philippine Department of Environment & Natural Resources).

With seven of its scientists in attendance, AQD also took part in the “1st International River Summit” held 30 May-1 June 2012 in Iloilo City. There were more than 1,200 experts, scientists, policy makers, and river administrators coming from 15 countries at the Summit which tackled issues on

governance, biodiversity conservation & management, climate change & disaster risk reduction management, and water quality management. The Summit declared 22 March 2012 as the yearly Philippine River Day, which is also the celebration of World Water Day.

AQD was also presented at the 15th CONSAL (Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians) Meeting and General Conference held 28-31 May in Bali, Indonesia where more than 700 librarians and information officers from different countries attended to share their experiences, knowledge, and expertise. Senior information assistant Mr. Stephen Alayon presented a paper on “The development of an institutional repository at SEAFDEC/AQD” which he co-authored with E Nemiz, D Superio, J dela Peña, and L Pacino. ☒

Microbiologists from New Mexico State University



A course on “Microbial genetics for microbial ecologists” was conducted by AQD and the New Mexico State University (NMSU, USA) with funding support from the American Society for Microbiology. This was held 21 May-1 June 2012 at AQD and had 24 participants from AQD and from universities in Iloilo. NMSU-Department of Biology associate head Dr. Michele Nishiguchi and her assistant Ms. Melina Sedano, conducted lectures and laboratory exercises on microbial ecology, genetics, and biotechnology. ☒

AQD co-sponsors shrimp congress, coastal resource meeting

More than 600 industry stakeholders gathered in Bacolod City (Philippines) from 9 to 11 May 2012 to attend the “8th Philippine Shrimp Congress”. The participants agreed that technology (science-based research) is the key to sustained production of the white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*). The presenters came from Thailand, India, Taiwan, Belgium, Malaysia, France

and the Philippines including AQD. The congress was co-organized by PhilShrimp (Philippine Shrimp Industry Inc), DOST-Region 6 (Department of Science & Technology), DA-BFAR (Region 6 and central office of the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources), AQD, and University of the Philippines Visayas.

Another set of 124 participants attended the 2-day science meeting organized on 13-14 April by AQD and the Outstanding Young Scientist Inc. (OYSI). This “4th OYSI Regional Symposium and Workshop” discussed issues concerning coastal resources such as habitat destruction of coral reefs, mangrove forest, and seagrass & seaweed beds; stock enhancement of over-exploited marine species; low income of coastal communities; impacts of climate change; and illegal fishing & coastal erosion. The participants recommended establishment of additional marine protected areas; introduction of alternative livelihood for fisherfolk; and promotion of eco-tourism. ☒



(Left) Scientists Dr. Fe Estepa and Dr. Emilia Qunitio presented AQD's shrimp program and moderated the session on seed production, respectively.
(Right) The workshop at the OYSI coastal resource meeting

SEAFDEC takes part in ASEAN Meetings

In June 2012, SEAFDEC led by the Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, attended a series of ASEAN fisheries-related events. At the 4th Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Consultative Forum (AFCF) held on 4-5 June 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which primarily aimed to update the activities undertaken by the ASEAN Member Countries under eight clusters of activities, SEAFDEC shared information on the activities it has undertaken in collaboration with the Member Countries that are in line with the AFCF framework.



SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officers together with other participants at the 20th ASWGFi Meeting

ASEAN also convened the 20th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) on 6-8 June at the same venue, where discussion was made on various ASEAN fisheries-related initiatives and programs of activities. During the Meeting, SEAFDEC made presentations on the progress of activities implemented under the FCG/ASSP framework and the new programs proposed for 2012. SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Kenji Matsumoto also presented activities under the program on the “Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture and Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia”, which is being supported by the Japanese Government through SEAFDEC starting from 2010 and undertaken as part of the ASEAN Plus Three program.

SEAFDEC also presented a brief report on international fisheries-related issues, focusing on the recommendations of the RTC on Addressing Technical Issues on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (18-20 October 2011), the 14th FCG/ASSP Meeting (17-18 November 2011) and the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (2-6 April 2012). Important issues included IUU fishing, ASEAN catch certification, and means of addressing technical issues on commercially-exploited aquatic species (including CITES-related issues).

SEAFDEC also took part in the First ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication under the theme “Achieving Poverty Eradication and Rural Development

through Improved Food Security, Livelihood and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in ASEAN”, held on 12 June 2012 in Da Nang City, Vietnam. In his keynote presentation, Dr. Chumnarn emphasized on the importance of fisheries to food security and the well-being of people in the region, and the specificity of fisheries in the region being multi-species and involving large numbers of small-scale fishers/farmers. He also outlined the important roles of relevant governmental, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental sectors in supplementing and fulfilling the gaps of each other to ensure sustainable development of fisheries and poverty eradication in the region. ☒

TD exhibition at national fair in Thailand

The SEAFDEC/Training Department (TD) joined the Thai Department of Fisheries in staging a fisheries exhibition at the annual national fair “Pramong Nomklao” organized this year at the Future Park Department Store in Pathumthani, north of Bangkok. At the 10-day exhibition beginning 29 June 2012, TD presents the fisheries activities under the theme “Sustainable Fisheries” that have been carried out by SEAFDEC and its Member Countries.

Standing out among the display are arrays of information and pictures on deep sea fishery survey, fishing technologies (especially for tuna), fisheries research and resource enhancement. Cambodia and Malaysia have furnished exhibition materials to be made part of the display under the TD booth. The national fair was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulaborn Walailak on 2 July. As a benevolent gesture, all incomes collected from the fair will be donated to the famous Chulabhorn Research Institute for cancer research. ☒



SEAFDEC/TD fisheries exhibition at Pramong Nomklao

SEAFDEC takes part at the BOBLME RFMAC Meeting

On 25-26 June 2012, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri and Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn attended in the BOBLME Regional Fisheries Management Committee (RFMAC) Meeting in Bangkok, which was attended by representatives from Environment and Fisheries agencies of the participation countries of the BOBLME Project, namely: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Through a series of consultations conducted by the BOBLME Project, the fishery management plans for important species, e.g. Hilsa shad and Indian mackerel, were developed by applying the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). Based on these, the RFMAC further discussed and provided advice and recommendations on the regional management plan for Indian mackerel and Hilsa in the BOBLME participating countries. ❖



Participants in the BOBLME RFMAC on 25-26 June 2012

Indonesia's interest in the use of LPG for small fishing boats



SEAFDEC/TD organized a study tour for four Indonesian officials from the Fishing Technology Development Center in Jakarta to observe the use of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) technology in fisheries from 13 to 15 June 2012. The Indonesian officials shared with TD the results of their Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) system which was tested on small fishing boats in Indonesia. In exchange, TD arranged study visits in the Samut Prakan, Chonburi and Samut Sakhon waters to demonstrate how the LPG has been used as alternative energy source by small-scale fishing boats in Thailand. ❖

TD practical training for university students

Some 41 students from seven universities in Thailand attended an 11-day training course on "Estuarine Fishery Resources and Their Exploitation" at the TD office premises from 23 April to 4 May 2012. Aiming at familiarizing the trainees with the actual situation, the students were taken out after theoretical lecturing to the estuarine fishing grounds in the inner Gulf of Thailand. Experimental fishing was attempted, using popular fishing gear such as gillnets; and the students were drilled in basic oceanography most relevant to fishing operations.

At the end of the training course that was drawn to a close on 4 May, the first-hand experiences among these students should not only teach them the practical ways of lives of the estuarine fishermen, but the bonds of friendship among them burgeoning in the field should

help this multi-institutional personalities to work harmoniously together in the future as well.

Moreover, a 4-day training course specifically designed to meet the requested need of Burapha University on fishing gear technology was organized from 28 to 31 May 2012. Requested and funded by the Faculty of Science's Department of Fisheries, Burapha University, the training course accentuated the various aspects of technology pertaining to the development and progress of various types of fishing gear. After the principles and philosophy given through lecturing, the students were exposed to hands-on practical lessons, which involved net



Students practicing the use of basic fishing gear during their fishing operation practical session

repairing and constructing simple gears. Experimental fishing operation on M.V. Plalung was undertaken as planned to culminate the training course. The students were supervised closely during their operation of popular fishing gear, e.g. crab traps, and gillnets in and around the Chao Phraya estuary. ❖

SPECIAL REPORT

Addressing Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species in the Southeast Asian Region

By SEAFDEC Secretariat



Driven by the world's population growth and increased global demand for fishery products, fishing pressure has been rapidly rising while fisheries resources particularly major marine fish stocks or species groups are declining over the past years. Even though the international community has launched various international and regional conservation initiatives with the aim of improving the conservation status of commercially-exploited aquatic species, with particular focus on depleted and overexploited species, such initiatives focus on management measures by regional fishery bodies and arrangements (RFBAs), international treaties; and soft law, e.g. FAO/CCRF. As one of the international environmental legislation, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES works by making international trade in selected animal and plant species conditional through certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention must be authorized through a licensing system.

The conservation and fisheries management efforts of the SEAFDEC Member Countries have been focused on selected commercially-exploited aquatic species such as sharks, tunas, sea cucumber, seahorses etc. However, many countries are still facing key technical issues that include:

- 1) Difficulty in species identification of exported products (e.g. tuna meat, juvenile tunas, shark fins);
- 2) Some species listed under CITES Appendices are caught as incidental catch from trawl fisheries due to the multi-species nature of fisheries in Southeast Asia where large number of small-scale fishers are involved in fishing operations;
- 3) National statistics framework does not seem to facilitate data collection by species resulting in lack of data/information for management purposes; and
- 4) Weak enforcement of national legislations that regulate management and trade of the concerned species.

In order to support the countries in making decision on proper management of commercially-exploited aquatic species and/or endangered species listed in the CITES Appendices, key recommendations for future actions and collaboration were developed during the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species on 18-20 October 2011, Bangkok, Thailand. The recommendations are summarized for immediate-, medium- and long-term actions by Member Countries (**Table 1**).

In addition, the Member Countries also identified HRD requirements such as species identification, biological data collection, use of fishing logbook or catch documentation schemes and on Non-detriment Findings (NDF) to facilitate the implementation of the NDF.

Table 1. Recommendations for immediate-, medium- and long-term actions by the Member Countries

Key Issues	Recommendations/Actions	I	M	L
Insufficient scientific data on status and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify critically important commercially-exploited aquatic species Harmonize and improve national statistics systems and capacity for collection of statistics Conduct periodic biological data collection Develop national database for long term assessment and prediction of fisheries trends Identify and define the origin of catch by species 	X	X	X
Inadequate stock/catch assessment studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the conduct national stock/catch assessment for selected target species (such as tuna, identified sharks) Establish the Regional Working Group on Stock Assessment (<i>e.g.</i> tuna, identified sharks) Implement Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries 	X	X	X
Fragile coordinating mechanism between fisheries and other agencies involved in CITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the gap of communication/coordination Clarify the list of focal points of both agencies Enhance coordination Enhance the roles/functions of fisheries authorities in the CITES venues 	X	X	X
Lack of representatives from fisheries sector in CITES discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the participation of countries' fisheries authorities in CITES-related meetings 	X	X	X
Technical problems within CITES system itself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that scientific evidences such as biomass level for MSY are adequately evaluated in proposals for listing of species the Appendices Evaluate the application of look-alike provisions in the CITES regulations Assess the interpretation of criteria for inclusion of species in CITES Appendices 		X	X
Adverse impacts of CITES listings to regional/local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the impacts of the proposed listings and share the results among countries concerned Develop and improve data collection and analysis systems to ensure appropriate implementation of CITES Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) 		X	X
Insufficient policies and measures on conservation/management of concerned species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the appropriate fisheries management measures based on the results of stock assessment Enhance national policies and legal framework to support the enforcement and implementation of the various measures 		X	X
Inadequate mechanism for sharing of information and experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share experiences on successful aquaculture and stock enhancement technologies Promote the conservation of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSA) 		X	X

Note: I = Immediate-term action
M = Medium-term action
L = Long-term action

In conclusion, the RTC pointed out that several RFMOs and relevant national agencies are also pursuing efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation of aquatic species by regulating trade as well as the sustainable utilization of resources including the collection of data and information through their respective statistical frameworks. In this regard, regional cooperation through the existing mechanisms should be strengthened to

facilitate the exchange of information and avoid duplication of efforts. Meanwhile, the participation of fisheries-related authorities in CITES-related meetings and discussions should be enhanced to reinforce the arguments of the countries in the region and augment relevant technical information on the commercially-exploited aquatic species.



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

MFRDMD collaborates with BOBLME in genetic study

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project with Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand as participating countries works to lay the foundation for a coordinated program of actions to improve regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

For 2012, one of the projects implemented by BOBLME is to assess the genetic structure of Indian mackerel in the Bay of Bengal area. To make this into a reality, a series of meetings among the participating countries would be undertaken. As such, an Indian Mackerel Working Group Meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 28-29 May 2012 to establish a sound genetic sampling scheme, and analysis outline for assessing the stock structure of Indian mackerel in the Bay of Bengal region. The Meeting developed a region-wide stock structure study to understand how Indian mackerel stocks are distributed in the region.

MFRDMD represented SEAFDEC in this program, and was assigned to conduct genetic analysis of Indian mackerel using microsatellite marker for samples from Kuantan and Kudat, which represent the South China Sea region as an outgroup. MFRDMD was also requested to assist Myanmar and Maldives in conducting their respective genetic analysis. This is a good opportunity for MFRDMD to strengthen its function in development and management of marine fisheries in the region.

Presently, MFRDMD has worked extensively on genetics of the Indian mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagartha*) and Japanese scad (*Decapterus maruadsi*) using cytochrome-b markers under the Japanese Trust Fund II Project which would be concluded in December 2012. This includes analysis of the tissue samples from 14 sites (n=35) in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea, covering from Vietnam (north) to Indonesia (south), Philippines (east) and Myanmar (west). It is envisaged that the



The BOBLME team with Dr. Rishi Sharma (Stock Assessment Coordinator of BOBLME) and Mr John Candy (Genetic Expert from Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Biological Station – BOBLME consultant)

results from BOBLME's microsatellite study can validate the findings from the cytochrome-b method used in the JTFII project.

The Meeting agreed that all participating laboratories including MFRDMD's genetic laboratory would do the same preparation which includes: i) evaluation of the Genetic Markers developed for stock identification for Indian mackerel in the region; ii) evaluation of the ability of the laboratories in the region to process data, and analyze the data using a coordinated standardized technique (this would involve a blind-test across labs to ensure consistency is used in processing the samples); iii) development of a plan to collect the correct information for stock identification using a statistically valid sampling plan, that is both spatial and temporally adequate; and iv) review of the results at a later period to assess stock structure in the region.

This study would start from July 2012 after the signing of the MoA, and would run until December 2013. ☒



*Meeting on assessing stock structure of Indian mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagartha*) for fisheries assessment at the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 28 to 29 May 2012*

Experts group meeting on combating IUU fishing



Core experts during the Meeting on Fishing Licensing and Boats Registration

SEAFDEC/Training Department, with the support from the Japanese Trust Fund, organized an Experts Group Meeting on Fishing Licensing and Boats Registration in Southeast Asia during 25-28 June 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting aimed at reviewing the existing systems of respective Southeast Asian countries in collecting national records on fishing vessels, in order to facilitate the development of the regional record on fishing vessels and further facilitate information sharing on the fishing vessels operating in the Southeast Asian waters.

After deliberation, the Meeting came up with: i) basic requirements for regional vessel record in the Southeast Asian region, ii) sharing information of number of fishing vessel in the region, and iii) national data compilation system for recording vessels 24 meters in length and over. The Meeting then requested TD to initiate the development of the regional record of fishing vessels starting with vessels 24 meters in length and over (later on may also cover vessels measuring less than 24 meters). TD was also requested to develop database of fishing vessels in the region making use of existing data and information as initial inputs, while the countries would have to regularly provide the necessary information to be updated in the database. It was further suggested that once developed, the regional record could also be shared with the FAO Global Record. ❖

New publications on sharks

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD launched new field guide on the identification of shark species in the Southeast Asian region in conjunction with the “Regional Workshop on Taxonomy and Identification of Sharks and Rays in Southeast Asia” held at MFRDMD from 22 to 26 April 2012. The publication was supported by the Japanese Trust Fund.

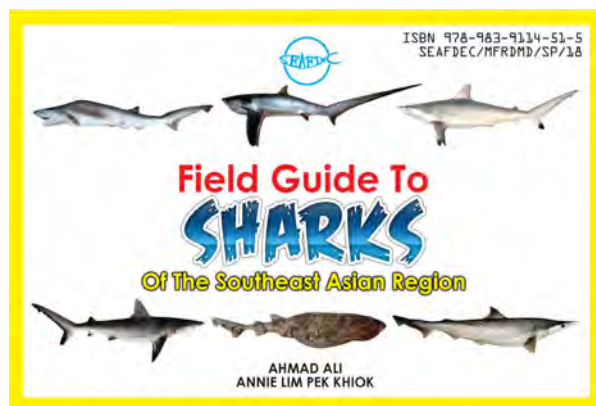
This book provides a field guide of 69 species of sharks which are mostly found in abundance in the Southeast Asian region, although the most dominant sharks species caught differs from one country to another. This book will help fisheries biologists, scientists, fishers, anglers, and the public to identify species of sharks most of which could be observed in fish markets, landing sites as well as during fisheries resources survey in the Southeast Asian region. In addition, the book also attempts to classify sharks to their order, family, genus and species levels. It also provides reference knowledge to those who are involved in fish identification and taxonomy.

The Southeast Asian region has a rich fauna of sharks. At least 174 species of sharks from 8 orders and 29 families are found inhabiting the countries from freshwater to deep-ocean environments. Indonesia recorded the highest number with 111 species and 26 families followed by Philippines (94 species and 26 families); Thailand (64 species and 21 families); Malaysia (63 species and 18 families); Brunei Darussalam (34

species and 13 families); Myanmar (34 species and 10 families); Vietnam (29 species and 13 families); and Cambodia (11 species and 6 families).

Two experts co-authored this book are: Mr. Ahmad Ali, a Senior Researcher of MFRDMD in Kuala Terengganu Malaysia and Co-Regional Vice Chair, IUCN Shark Specialist Group for Southeast Asia Region; and Ms. Annie Lim Pek Khiok, a Senior Laboratory Assistant of Regional Fisheries Bio-security Centre, Kuching, Sarawak.

Mr. Ahmad Ali has also authored and co-authored many books and papers on elasmobranch, sea turtles, oceanography, artificial reefs and other related fisheries issues published by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and SEAFDEC. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate (Fisheries Oceanography) at the Institute of Oceanography and Environment, University Malaysia Terengganu. Ms. Annie Lim Pek Khiok is a member of IUCN Shark Specialist Group Southeast Asian Region since 2007 and co-authored 4 books and 4 scientific papers on taxonomy, biology, management and conservation of sharks and rays published by SEAFDEC, Department of Fisheries Malaysia and CSIRO, Australia. Her recent contribution is the documentation of a new species, *Okamejei jensena*, Last & Lim, 2010 and rediscovery of the rare and endangered Borneo shark *Carcharhinus borneensis* in Sarawak, Malaysia. ❖



A new field guide on the identification of shark species

SEAFDEC joins the 2nd Coral Triangle Fishers Forum in Fiji

SEAFDEC officials led by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri attended in “the 2nd CTI Fishers Forum II: Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and traceability for fishing communities and industry” which was co-hosted by the WWF South Pacific Program Office and the Marine Stewardship Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests of the Government of Fiji Islands on 18-20 June 2012, in Suva, the Republic of Fiji.



SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri delivering a message during the 2nd Coral Triangle Fishers Forum

The Forum gave attention to identifying strategies and models for effective partnerships on seafood traceability, reducing IUU fisheries and achieving long-term sustainability and security in the seafood sector. Representatives from various stakeholders of the CTI countries including government officers, NGOs, fisheries managers, fishers and private sectors attended the Forum.

In his message, Dr. Chumnarn cited that attempts have been made to improve fisheries management by addressing issues on IUU fishing and promoting traceability of fish and fishery products in order to alleviate poverty and achieve food security in the Southeast Asian region. Through this Forum, SEAFDEC looks forward to sharing experiences and the lessons learned while working

towards attaining sustainable fisheries and securing the livelihoods of fisher folks in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC expressed the wish that this Forum would improve fisheries management in the region, which could serve as measure in combat IUU fishing for poverty alleviation and food security, as well as to enhance closer collaboration and partnership for the benefit of all.



SEAFDEC joins EAFM REX3 of the CTI

Staff from SEAFDEC/Secretariat and Regional Fisheries Policy Network for Indonesia (Mr. Adi Wibowo), Malaysia (Ms. Keni Anak Ngiwol) and the Philippines (Ms. Geselle Fransces P. Zeta) joined the 3rd Regional Exchange

on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), held from 22 to 25 May 2012 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The forum was hosted by the Government of Malaysia through its CTI National Coordinating Committee, with assistance

from the US CTI Support Program, in coordination with the CTICFF Interim Regional Secretariat. The forum was attended by representatives from CT6 countries, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Island.



Representatives from CT6 countries, governments, international organizations and stakeholders during the EAFM REX 3 of the CTI Forum

In order to promote the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, The forum came up with the final draft of a common regional framework for legislation and policy that would support EAF among the six countries of the Coral Triangle (CT6). The implementation of the EAFM activities and national legislations of CT6 were also reviewed in an attempt to incorporate IUU fishing issues into the EAFM process and framework.



Fishery resource surveys by SEAFDEC vessels in Thai and Vietnamese waters

SEAFDEC/Training Department mobilized its two research vessels, the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to carry out fishery and oceanographic surveys of Thai and Vietnamese waters at the request of two Member Countries.

From 20 May to 5 June 2012, the M.V. SEAFDEC set sail to carry out a similar survey in the Gulf of Thailand as requested by Thailand's Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

In Vietnam, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was also used to conduct fishery survey of 115 designated stations to draw

samples from bottom otter-board trawl and mid-water trawl, and in another 120 stations to collect oceanographic data.

The fishery survey in Vietnam would cover the period from 14 May to 23 July 2012. ❏



Samples collected from fishery and oceanographic surveys, using the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2

Project on Utilization of Freshwater Fish For Value-added Products: Mid-Term Evaluation and Progress Meeting

MFRD through the Post-harvest Technology Division of AVA as the collaborating center of SEAFDEC successfully conducted the Mid-Term Evaluation and Progress Meeting for the project on Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products (2011-2013) from 27 to 28 June 2012 in Singapore. The Meeting is one of the six activities under the Project and was attended by two participants each from the four participating countries, namely Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Indonesia.



Product sensory evaluation session of the meeting

The objectives of the Meeting were for the participating countries to update the progress of the project activities in their respective countries, namely: product development and processing trials including product shelf life studies, and to discuss the format and publication

of the processing handbook and the conduct of the End-of-Project Seminar in 2013. During the Meeting, participants were given the opportunity to conduct sensory evaluation of their products, which provided an opportunity for them to obtain valuable comments and recommendations to improve their products.

The Meeting agreed that the product development and processing trials should be completed by end of 2012 with all the reports submitted to MFRD by 1st quarter of 2013. MFRD will then collate and edit the reports so that the publication of the processing handbook can be done in time for the End-of-Project Seminar scheduled in the 3rd quarter of 2013. It was also agreed that MFRD shall invite interested Singapore companies to the End-of-Project Seminar to provide opportunities for networking with the project's commercial co-operants which could lead to business venture opportunities in the future. ❏



Mid-Term Evaluation and Progress Meeting for the project on Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer
2012			
2-6 July	Nha Trang, Vietnam	Regional Training Workshop on Monitoring Tuna Catch Data at Tuna Cannery	TD
3-5 July	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	26 th Meeting of INFOFISH Technical and Advisory Board	INFOFISH
9-13 July	Iloilo, Philippines	AQD 39 th Anniversary	AQD
9-13 July	Rome, Italy	30 th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)	FAO
13 July	Rome, Italy	4 th Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network	FAO
14 July	Rome, Italy	2 nd Inter-sessional CWP-Aquaculture Sub-group Meeting	FAO
16-20 July	Philippines	Training Course on Tilapia Hatchery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
16-22 July	Thailand	Regional Training Course on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	TD
17-19 July	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	5 th Core Expert Meeting on Tagging Program for Economically-important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea	MFRDMD
23-25 July	Bangkok, Thailand	First Meeting of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee	SEAFDEC
7-15 August	Busan, Korea	8 th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	WCPFC
13-17 August	Philippines	Training Course on Freshwater Prawn Hatchery & Pond Grow-out Operations	AQD
27-28 August	Sri Lanka	7 th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Programme - Inter Governmental Organization	BOBP-IGO
28-29 August	Phuket, Thailand	2 nd Andaman Sea Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sida
3-6 September (Tentative)	Thailand	FAO/GEF Regional Workshop on Work Plan for the REBYC II - CTI Project (Year 1)	FAO/GEF and TD
10-14 September	Penang, Malaysia	Inception Workshop for the Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition (AFSPAN) Project	FAO
17-21 September	Philippines	Training Course on Carp Hatchery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
20-22 September	Da Nang, Vietnam	32 nd Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	APFIC
24-28 September	Thailand	Regional Training Workshop on Habitat Mapping	TD
8-12 October	Philippines	Training Course on Freshwater Prawn Hatchery & Pond Grow-out Operations	AQD
8-16 October	Thailand	Regional Training Course on Post-harvest Fish Handling Techniques	TD
9-11 October	Bangkok, Thailand	FAO/APFIC/NACA Regional Consultation on Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific	FAO/APFIC/NACA
15-19 October	Philippines	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
16-18 October	Nha Trang, Vietnam	Workshop on Assessment of the Impacts of IUU Fishing and EC Regulation 1005/2008 on Small-scale Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	Vietnam, RPOA, SEAFDEC, and Singapore
23-24 October	Singapore	13 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Program	MFRD
29-30 October	Thailand	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Meeting on the Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species	Secretariat
31 October-2 November	Thailand	The Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-related Issues including the CITES Issues	Secretariat
6-8 November	Cambodia	9 th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES (AEG-CITES)	ASEAN

Meet the new AQD Chief, Dr. Felix Ayson

(Continued from Page 16)

that can be used as a laboratory and as a technology showcase; and by ii) intensifying collaboration with DA-BFAR which has a better reach in the Philippines with their regional fisheries training centers (RFTCs) all over the country. He also planned to address the lack of expertise at AQD in highly specialized fields (like biotechnology) by recruiting highly-qualified staff according to a rational manpower development target. As for funding of AQD programs, he encouraged AQD researchers to be aggressive in seeking grants through innovative research proposals.

Dr. Ayson promised a transparent, just and fair management that will listen to all AQD employees; in return, he also expects innovation, hard work and dedication. "I am strict, but reasonable." he said. "And, we AQD employees must have only one loyalty and that is to AQD; we must have one motivation and that is service to all the stakeholders; and we must have only one guide and that is AQD's triple mandate of research, human resources development & information dissemination". Dr. Ayson completed his post-doctoral fellowship at Kitasato University in Japan (2000) through a grant from JSPS (Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science); acquired his PhD in Zoology major in fish physiology and endocrinology from the Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo (Japan) in 1994; and obtained his M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Marine Biology from the University of the Philippines Diliman (1987) and University of San Carlos (1981, cum laude), respectively.

As an AQD scientist rising through the ranks (he was first employed as a senior research assistant in 1986), Dr. Ayson has so far published 16 science papers in peer-reviewed international journals as sole author or first author. He has received research grants on rabbitfish from USAID (2001-2004) and AusAID (2004-2005); the latter was for an award-winning proposal on siganid culture for a rural community. More recently, he has received a milkfish grant from USAID-AquaFish CRSP (2007-2009) and is a current collaborator of a DOST-PCAARD milkfish project with UP Visayas. He has headed AQD's programs on marine fish and climate change, which included research, training & information, and extension activities for aquaculture stakeholders. In between his stints at AQD, he served as the Chief Technical Advisor on aquaculture for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy (2007-2010). He was a visiting professor at the Tropical Biosphere Research Center of the University of Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan (2005-2006); and he was a research fellow in Kitasato University (1997-1999). Dr. Ayson is 51 years old; hails from Candijay, Bohol, Philippines; is married to Dr. Evelyn Grace de Jesus-Ayson, also an AQD scientist; and has two children. With the new leadership, the AQD community is looking forward to better serve the needs of aquaculture stakeholders in Member Countries. ☒

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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MFRDMD organizes Regional Workshop on Identification of Sharks and Rays

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD organized a Regional Workshop on Taxonomy and Identification of Sharks and Rays in Southeast Asia on 22-26 April 2012 in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia under support from the Japanese Trust Fund. A total of 24 participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, including representatives from SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Department of Fisheries Sabah, attended the Workshop.

Over the years, the ASEAN Member Countries recognized several environment-related issues, and one of them was the problem on by-catch including of sharks and rays. In order to improve information collection on the catch species, utilization and trade of sharks and rays in the region, the Workshop aimed to enhance and facilitate data collection and species identification of sharks and rays in participating Member Countries.

The Workshop was conducted by Dr. Keiichi Sato, a Fish Curator from Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium and Mr. Ahmad Ali from MFRDMD as resource persons, and assisted by Ms. Annie Lim Pek Khiok and Mr. Abdul Harris Hilmi Ahmad Arshad as the facilitators. On the last day of the Workshop, the participants visited the LKIM Kuantan Fishing Port to observe shark and ray landings. Through

the Workshop, participants have obtained more knowledge and experiences in the identification of shark and ray species in the Southeast Asian waters.

The workshop also served as venue to launch the book "Field Guide to Sharks of the Southeast Asian Region" written by Mr. Ahmad Ali and Ms. Annie Lim Pek Khiok. 



Participants observing shark and ray landings at LKIM Kuantan Fishing Port

Meet the new AQD Chief, Dr. Felix Ayson

Dr. Felix Ayson is the new Chief of SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) for the next two years starting 29 June 2012. A career fisheries scientist specializing on biotechnology, marine fish hatchery and climate change, Dr. Ayson was selected based on the results of a search process facilitated by the Philippine Department of Agriculture. He was endorsed by Philippine President Hon. Benigno Aquino III,

and his nomination was affirmed by the SEAFDEC Council.

In his first address to the AQD community, Dr. Ayson stressed the importance of AQD's work plan on five thematic programs to address food security, poverty alleviation and sustainability issues in aquaculture in Southeast Asia. AQD's thematic programs, adopted at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011 include: i) meeting social & economic challenges; ii) ensuring quality seed; iii) developing healthy & wholesome aquaculture; iv) maintaining environmental integrity



New AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson during the installation ceremony



Dr. FG Ayson (third from left) with SEAFDEC National Coordinator for the Philippines Dr. Jonathan Dickson; former AQD Chief Dr. Flor Lacanilao, and AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma

through responsible aquaculture; and v) adapting to climate change. To realize AQD's strategic plans on these themes, the new Chief said he plans to expand AQD's technology transfer efforts to include a wider clientele by i) focusing on fisheries schools to enable them to put up small-scale aquaculture facilities

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