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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Sweden commits SEK 48 million for 2013-2017 1
- 2013 RFPN members at SEAFDEC 10
- MFRDMD collaborates with BOBLME project on Indian mackerel genetic study 12
- SEAFDEC convenes workshop on fish passage 13
- Intergovernmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade 16

EDITORIAL

While entering into its 46th year in the sphere of fisheries development, SEAFDEC vows to strengthen the foundation that it had laid during the past years for the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. Through its programs and activities that had been re-crafted to take into consideration the instructions set forth in the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASAEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted in June 2011, SEAFDEC continues to intensify its efforts to ensure that the contribution of fisheries to food security in Southeast Asia is enhanced. Considering that such a gigantic task cannot be accomplished by SEAFDEC alone, cooperation and collaboration have been forged between the SEAFDEC Departments with various organizations and agencies involved in the region's fisheries development to co-share the responsibilities and requirements.

One of the successes, which SEAFDEC attained during this quarter, is obtaining the commitment of SEK 48 million from the Government of Sweden for continued cooperation with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in support of fisheries and habitat management, climate change

(Continued on Page 2)

Sweden commits SEK 48 million for 2013-2017

On 5 March 2013, the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) committed SEK 48 million for its continued cooperation with SEAFDEC in support of fisheries and habitat management, climate change and social well-being in Southeast Asia, covering the period of five years from 2013.



Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri and Ms. AnnaMaria Oltorp signing the Agreement to promote responsible utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources in Southeast Asia

The cooperation between SEAFDEC and Sida has reached a stage that allows the partners to agree in actively promoting the responsible utilization of marine and aquatic resources based on due recognition of the need to maintain environmental health and conservation of critical habitats. The geographical scope targeted in the Agreement is the ASEAN with special focus on the four important sub-regions, *i.e.* the Gulf of Thailand, the Andaman Sea, the Sulu-

Sulawesi Seas and the Mekong River Basin.

In the implementation of this project, SEAFDEC would cooperate with key partners in the region and in the sub-regions, including ASEAN, FAO/APFIC, RPOA-IUU, MRC, BOBLME,

(Continued on Page 3)


SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan visits TD

The SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan and Deputy Director-General of Japan's Fisheries Agency, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, and his party paid a visit to SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) on 23 January 2013.

The visit allowed the visitors to have first-hand exposure to the operations and facilities of TD, as the first technical Department of SEAFDEC. The visitors were guided by TD senior staff to inspect TD training facilities, including its fishing and engineering workshop. They were also guided to have a look at the training and research vessels M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. The visitors were also taken aboard a Payoon



Mr. Masanori Miyahara and his party onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC 2

boat to observe the surroundings of bustling Chao Phraya estuary where a large number of fishing boats engaged in fishing or traveling back and forth between their fishing grounds and landing ports. 

Introducing the new SEAFDEC-Sida cooperation for 2013-2017

A full-day Seminar on Introduction to SEAFDEC-Sida Cooperation 2013-2017 was held on 12 March 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand with the participation of delegates from the Swedish, Australian and Norwegian Embassies in Bangkok; representatives from partner organizations, namely Sida, FAO/APFIC, IUCN, UNEP, MRC/Fisheries Programme, CORIN-Asia, and Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management (SwAM); as well as officials from SEAFDEC and the RFPN members.

SEAFDEC and Sida recently reached a new agreement for a project on

“Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia”, covering the period of 2013-2017. Through the previous SEAFDC-Sida project, efforts were made to improve cooperation among countries on management for sustainable fisheries and habitat integration. As a kick-starter for the new project, the Seminar provided the forum for partners to discuss ways to enhance coordination and joint approaches towards social and environmental sustainability in the region. While the new SEAFDEC-Sida cooperation would aim at enhancing the social well-being, including improved working conditions and alternative

livelihoods, emphasis would also be given to seek commitment from the Member Countries in following-up on the development and implementation of sub-regional and regional agreements, with a special focus on four sub-regions, namely; the Gulf of Thailand, the Andaman Sea, the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and the Mekong River Basin.

Subsequent to the Seminar, on 14 March, SEAFDEC Secretariat also hosted the 2012 SEAFDEC-Sida Project Annual Review Meeting. Attended by officers from the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok, Sida office in Stockholm, SwAM, and relevant officers of SEAFDEC, the Meeting reviewed the achievements and outputs of the Sida-supported project during 2009-2012. The Meeting also discussed opportunities and possible areas for future cooperation between SEAFDEC and SwAM, e.g. marine spatial planning, monitoring, control and surveillance, development and use of logbooks, vessel registration, fisheries statistic, etc. ☒



Participants in Seminar on Introduction to SEAFDEC-Sida Cooperation 2013-2017

Editorial

(Continued from Page 1)

and social well-being in Southeast Asia. The new SEAFDEC-Sida cooperation is aimed at enhancing the social well-being, including improved working conditions and alternative livelihoods, with emphasis on seeking commitment from the Member Countries in following-up on the development and implementation of sub-regional and regional agreements, especially the four important sub-regions, namely: the Gulf of Thailand, the Andaman Sea, the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, and the Mekong River Basin. Likewise during the first quarter of 2013, SEAFDEC/AQD also received commitments and declarations of support from various agencies working on sustainable aquaculture development.

In the process of updating the programs of work to make sure that these are directed towards the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries in particular and the region's fisheries sector in general, SEAFDEC through the Secretariat Office facilitated the conduct of the Third

SEAFDEC Review as instructed by the SEAFDEC Council. Carried out by seven members of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee, the resulting compiled report that focuses on the future of SEAFDEC with specific recommendations to improve its operations, would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration during its 45th Meeting in April 2013.

In order to address the concern on the sustainable development of inland fisheries and thus, covering all sub-sectors of fisheries, SEAFDEC through its Secretariat Office facilitated the preparatory works for the establishment of the so-called Inland Fisheries Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) as a new SEAFDEC Department in Indonesia. Discussions during the quarter have therefore been centered on the proposed functions, vision, mission, as well as important areas to be incorporated in the program of work of IFRDMD, in order that the progress of the establishment could be reported to the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

While the SEAFDEC Departments continue to pursue their respective plans and programs, more focus was placed during the quarter in building the institutional and human capacity of the Member Countries. Moreover, as SEAFDEC traverses the realm of fisheries paving the way for progress and development in fisheries, changes in its profile could also be expected. Specifically during this quarter, SEAFDEC welcomes the appointment of the new Special Departmental Coordinator (SDC) for SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan. He would continue the work of Mr. Abu Talib bin Ahmad who served as SDC for MFRDMD during the past five years and recently transferred to take on a new assignment as the Director of Penang-based Fisheries Research Institute. ☒

SEAFDEC Newsletter is available at www.seafdec.org.

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

AQD signs four new pacts for intellectual property and for research studies

AQD signed an agreement on 7 March 2013 in Iloilo City with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) to become part of the latter's network of innovation & technology support offices. The network is a pilot project created by IPOP HL in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization which is aimed at providing a ready pool of science and technical experts with competence to conduct patent search and patent drafting as well as to assist in patent prosecution. "With 40 years of research-and-development under its belt, AQD has developed a lot of aquaculture technologies", AQD Chief Dr. Felix G. Ayson noted. "The next step for AQD is to determine which are patentable technologies, and which have

not been disseminated as prior art. We can be ambitious and perhaps foresee a future where R&D can be independently funded through income coming from patents and copyrights".

AQD also renewed its agreement with the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) on 28 January 2013 in Tigbauan, Iloilo. The agreement aims to strengthen the capabilities of AQD and UPV in the fields of aquaculture, fisheries, aquatic sciences and related fields through the cooperative use of materials and facilities. In addition, AQD signed an agreement with the UP Diliman's Institute of Biology for a three-year research collaboration. The agreement is specific to the project on the development of molecular marker



AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson and UPV Chancellor Dr. Rommel Espinosa shake hands on the Agreement

for milkfish broodstock management implemented under the research program on "Genetics for Sustainable Milkfish Aquaculture" funded by the Department of Science & Technology (DOST).

On 16 January, AQD also signed another agreement with Hong Kong-based Kiko Technology for a test trial of their new product called Tritan (designed to improve water quality). The objective of this trial is to demonstrate how the product could decrease mortality rates, improve water clarity in tanks/ponds, improve product taste, reduce tank/pond odors, impact rates of feed conversion, increase size/weight of the subject, and/or promote uniformity of size, weight, color, etc. The test trial would be conducted on grouper, shrimp, mud crab, abalone, microalgae and seaweeds.



In agreement: IPOP HL represented by Atty. Ricardo Blancaflor and SEAFDEC/AQD by Dr. Felix Ayson

Sweden commits SEK 48 million for 2013-2017

(Continued from Page 1)



CTI-CFF, IUCN, ICSF, UNEP, IMO and the Wetland Alliance, as well as NGO's and others at national level, in sharing of good practices and resources in the implementation of activities. The cooperation between Sida and SEAFDEC is expected to further contribute to the

sustainable fisheries development of the ASEAN Community.

Ms. AnnaMaria Oltorp, Head of the Development Cooperation Section at the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok stated that "Sida is pleased to welcome the continued cooperation with SEAFDEC; and as it is framed, it is one important pillar and example of the support being provided to the implementation of the Swedish Strategy for Regional Development Cooperation focusing on Southeast Asia (September 2010 to June 2015). This is also in line with the Swedish Statement of Government Policy as made by the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Carl Bildt, who

pointed out the importance that Sweden pays to the preservation of biodiversity and marine environment".

"The SEAFDEC-Sida cooperation is playing a crucial role in helping the ASEAN countries and target sub-regions to balance aquatic resources utilization, social concerns and environmental sustainability in support of the building of the ASEAN Community by 2015. On behalf of our Member Countries and people in the region dependent on aquatic resources, we are delighted over the continued commitment from Sweden to support this important mission", said Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC.



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

SEAFDEC convenes third JTF review meeting

The 3rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Review for Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) Projects was organized on 28 February - 1 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The objectives of the Meeting were to evaluate the JTF-II projects, which were recently completed in 2012, and to discuss the new project concept under the JTF-V. Five external evaluators, namely Dr. Oopatham Pawaputanan Na

Mahasarakam, Dr. Somsak Chullasorn, Mr. Damrong Silpachai, Prof. Junichiro Okamoto and Dr. Rolando R. Platon, as well as Mr. Takeshi Miwa from the Fishery Agency of Japan, provided range of comments for improvement of planning and implementation of the future JTF projects in order to meet the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries. ❖



AQD reviews 2012 Japanese Trust Fund studies

“On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere respect to the AQD researchers for conducting significant number of activities”, said Mr. Tetsuya Murakami during the “Annual Progress Meeting of the Program under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group Mechanism” held at SEAFDEC/AQD on 12-13 February 2013 with the participation of 64 AQD staff.

Mr. Murakami, representative from the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, along with five other experts, evaluated



Mr. Tetsuya Murakami and Dr. Mitsuru Ototake during the JTF Annual Progress Meeting

the activities implemented by AQD in 2012 under the JTF program. The other reviewers included Mr. Hidenao Watanabe, SEAFDEC Assistant Trust Fund Manager; Dr. Mitsuru Ototake of the Fisheries Research Agency of Japan; Dr. Carlos Baylon of the University of the Philippines Visayas; Dr. Clarissa Marte of the Integrated Services for the Development of Aquaculture; and Dr. Zubaida Basiao of the University of the Philippines Diliman.

The reviewers noted the need for AQD to intensify its technology transfer mechanism on good aquaculture practices not only to governments but also to be further extended to rural fisherfolk and communities. They suggested that resource enhancement activities be treated in a holistic manner wherein the social and economic aspects should go hand in hand with the biological aspects. They also emphasized on the importance of impact assessment in AQD’s training programs. ❖

Working Group Meeting for establishment of new SEAFDEC Department

SEAFDEC convened a Working Group Meeting on 24-25 January 2013 in Palembang, Indonesia to discuss issues relevant to the establishment of a new SEAFDEC Department on inland fisheries in Indonesia. The Working Group comprised the Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri and officials of the Secretariat, the Special Departmental Coordinators from respective SEAFDEC Departments, experts on inland fisheries (from Lao PDR, Thailand and MRC/Fisheries Programme), as well as the National Coordinator and relevant officers of Indonesia.



The Meeting co-chairs: Mr. Anang Noegroho and Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri

Discussed at the Meeting were the plans of operation, programs of work, and organization of existing SEAFDEC structure; the proposal on establishment of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department or IFRDMD (tentative title); and the future steps for the establishment of IFRDMD. The Meeting also discussed and agreed on the functions, vision, mission, as well as important areas that should be incorporated in the programs of work of the IFRDMD. The progress in the establishment of IFRDMD including its draft plan of operation would be reported to the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and further directives. ❖

M.V. SEAFDEC on a month-long expedition to the central Gulf of Thailand




University students from various institutions participating as research assistants during the expedition

With a group of 24 researchers and 41 students from five universities onboard, the M.V. SEAFDEC set sail on 14 March 2013 for her 29-day voyage to the central Gulf of Thailand to carry out fishery and environmental surveys.

The participating researchers also came from the Thai Department of Fisheries, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Department of Pollution Control, Marine Science Institute, and Petroleum Authority of Thailand's Exploration and Production Plc. The collaborative research mission covered the areas of physical and chemical oceanography, marine biology, fishery resources, and related methodological subjects.

Organized and coordinated by TD, The conduct of this expedition was co-financed by the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, particularly for the fuel and other expenditures for the cruise; while the institutions and agencies involved

in the expedition also provided in-kind contributions in terms of researchers including research assistants, necessary equipment, and more importantly, for the planning and analysis of the results.

A 1,178 GT fisheries training and research vessel, the M.V. SEAFDEC has been actively engaged in various maritime training programs, especially in fishery resource surveys and oceanographic research activities in the region. This 20-year old vessel is fully equipped with required fishing gears, top-of-the-line fishing machinery, and survey equipment. Built in Japan under a grant from the Japanese Government, the M.V. SEAFDEC was delivered to TD in February 1993. 

AQD conducts training on grouper, seaweeds and microalgae

A hatchery manager and a seaman completed the two-week course on grouper hatchery, which started on 14 January 2013 at SEAFDEC/AQD's main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo. They attended lectures and practicals on biology of grouper, broodstock sampling and induced spawning, culture of live food organisms, egg sampling, larval counting & stocking, feed preparation and cage culture. They also went to AQD's Igang Marine Station to observe mariculture practices.

Another set of four trainees, this time from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), learned about seaweeds nursery from AQD, completing a 10-day training which concluded on 13 February 2013 at AQD's main station. AQD resource persons lectured on topics such as biology & taxonomy of red algae, *Gracilaria* culture, nursery & grow-out culture of *Kappaphycus*, common diseases of seaweeds and food safety in seaweed production & processing. In addition, the participants had practical demonstration on taxonomy & identification of eucheumatoids, preparation of laboratory culture materials & media, and production of




(Top L-R) Trainees on grouper at AQD: taking a sample of grouper eggs; and trainees on seaweeds at AQD: on a visit to Igang Marine Station

(Right) Trainees on microalgae at AQD: learning media preparation and maintenance

micropropagules. They also went to AQD's Igang Marine Station to observe the seaweed sea-based nursery.

Two technical staff from National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) of DA-BFAR also completed a five-day specialized course on algal culture which started on 18 February 2013 in Tigbauan, Iloilo. They attended lectures and practicals on the biology & culture of phytoplankton, counting & isolation techniques, monitoring and harvesting of culture and



application of microalgae in aquaculture. This course is needed for the two R&D projects of National Fisheries Biological Center (NFBC), one of the research centers of NFRDI, which require an in-depth technical knowledge on algal culture, and also in preparation for the on-going development of the phycolab at the center. 

AQD hosts a meeting on malacology and conducts mollusk training

On 15-19 December 2012, AQD hosted the Malacology Society of the Philippines' 6th Conference and Training in the Collection and Identification of Coastal Mollusks. Twenty-three teachers and students representing 13 schools signed up for the training, and most presented papers and posters during the Conference on 19 December. Notable

among the participants was Dr. Satoshi Chiba of Tohoku University, Japan, AQD researcher Ms. Milagros dela Pena, and senior scientist Dr. Teodora Bagarinao (also the AQD organizer of the meeting and training) presented a paper on abalone and a poster on mollusk biodiversity, respectively. The venue was AQD's FishWorld. ❖



Trainees on mollusk identification: collecting shells and cleaning them up

TD joins Thailand at its 2013 Celebration of National Children's Day

The SEAFDEC Training Department joined Thailand to celebrate the 2013 National Children's Day on 12 January at the Golden Jubilee Museum of Agriculture in Pathumthani Province, and at the Prachunlajomklao Navy Dockyard at the mouth of the Chao Phraya River.

At the Golden Jubilee Museum, TD collaborated with the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), put on display models of fishing gear, e.g., trawl net, gillnet at its booth to highlight its presentation of the theme which was fisheries resources conservation. A similar presentation was also put up at

the Prachunlajomklao Navy Dockyard. Several groups of children, guided by their chaperons, gained knowledge from TD's booth and display.

The National Children's Day in Thailand has been celebrated in response to the recommendation of the 1954 UN General Assembly. In Thailand, it was first observed on the first Monday of October 1955, but owing to the inconveniences largely inflicted by the rainy season, the Children's Day celebration was shifted in 1965 to second Saturday of January. The annual schedule has been held ever since. ❖



At two fairs: AQD serves the stakeholders

AQD's research-and-development work was promoted during the "5th Aquatic Fair and Bazaar" held on 7-9 December 2012 in Quezon City. AQD provided free technical consultation and sold its publications. Flyers and institutional reports were also given out. The activity which highlighted organic fish farming was organized by Agri-Aqua Network Inc. and DA-BFAR. AQD also planned to do the same at the "20th Panaad Festival" in Bacolod City, which would be organized by the provincial government of Negros Occidental on 8-14 April to promote organic agriculture as well as the history, culture, arts, tourism, commerce and trade of 32 cities and municipalities of Negros island. Two research staff would showcase hatchery-reared seahorses and abalones at the Sagay City pavilion aquarium and AQD's stock enhancement project at Sagay Marine Reserve. ❖

TD welcomes primary school children



TD extended its warm welcome to 207 primary school children from the Saint John's School on 15 January 2013 at its premises in Samut Prakan. The children observed various modern fishing gears at the fishing workshop, where they were also given a lecture on the concept of sustainable fisheries and the roles that modern fishing gears play a significant part. The children showed their apparent excitement and appreciation while being guided through the modern navigation and fishing equipment aboard the Department's training vessel, the M.V. SEAFDEC. ❖

AQD welcomes intern and students

The new year brings new learners to AQD. The first is Mr. Benny Lim, a college student from Brunei Darussalam studying in Winchester, United Kingdom who has enrolled in AQD's internship program for a month starting from 7 January 2013. His internship covers natural food culture, culture of various fish species, mud crab and abalone and fish health management.

Meanwhile, 12 graduating students from the School of Veterinary Medicine of Aklan State University (ASU) started their two-week "Hands-on Training in Fish Diseases" on 7 January. Their internship is being conducted at AQD's Fish Health Section. Training topics include bacterial, viral, parasitic, and fungal diseases; and hands-on practicals on PCR diagnostic methods, processing of samples for histology and slide preparation, larval monitoring, fungal

isolation and bacterial media preparation. This clinical experience is part of their requirements to obtain the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition, 11 fisheries students from Sultan Kudarat State University - College of Fisheries (situated in Mindanao) began their internship training on 21 January. They will be working at AQD's various hatcheries and laboratories.



AQD intern from Brunei Darussalam assisting in the sampling of milkfish broodstock

AQD attends WAS meeting



Dr. Acacia Alcivar-Warren, who worked with AQD on prawn genetic study in the mid '90s (left), and AQD's Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Leбата-Ramos (right)

Nashville in Tennessee, USA was this year's venue of the World Aquaculture Society meeting (21-25 February 2013) and SEAFDEC/AQD was in attendance. AQD scientist Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Leбата-Ramos presented a paper on giant clams in the *Tridacna* session, one of the 15 simultaneous sessions in the 5-day meeting.



AQD library bags awards & starts work on ASFA

AQD Institutional Repository (SAIR) was given the 2012 Outstanding Library Program award by the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians Inc (PAARL). SAIR is AQD's official digital repository of scholarly and research information. This is made available to stakeholders to enable the effective dissemination of AQD publications. SAIR can be viewed at: <http://repository.seafdec.org.ph/>. PAARL is an organization that represents the librarians of institutions supporting scholarly research and/or formal education at the collegiate level and above.

More good news. Mr. Stephen Alayon, officer-in-charge of AQD's Library and Data Banking Services Section, was also recognized by PAARL as an Outstanding Academic/Research Librarian for 2012. The awarding ceremony was held on 25 January 2013 at the Technological Institute of the Philippines, Quezon City.



AQD's Mr. Stephen Alayon receiving his plaque of recognition

Meanwhile, AQD has started working on Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) by sending its senior information assistant Mr. Daryl Superio to Bangkok, Thailand to undergo training on "ASFA input procedures" on 18-22 March. The training was organized by FAO to ensure the consistency of ASFA records by using standard cataloging, abstracting and indexing procedures.

Mr. Superio along with five other participants attended lectures on bibliographic description, data

entry, database installation and record importation and exportation.

ASFA is an international cooperative information system that includes an abstracting and indexing service covering the world's literature in science & technology, management & conservation of marine, brackishwater & freshwater resources and environments. SEAFDEC, through the agreement signed by the Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, became an ASFA international partner with AQD as the collaborating center.



Mr. Daryl Superio receiving his ASFA training certificate from FAO trainers

SEAFDEC/AQD at 40: Improving lives through sustainable aquaculture



Photo by
Joesyl Marie dela Cruz

For nearly 40 years, SEAFDEC/AQD has mustered its strength and the support of stakeholders to work on sustainable aquaculture development. AQD has developed the breeding and culture technologies for tiger shrimp, milkfish, tilapia, carps, catfish, mussels, oysters, giant freshwater prawn, high value marine fishes (seabass, groupers, red snapper, rabbitfish, pompano), seaweeds, abalone, mud crab and sandfish. Due to such efforts, aquaculture today is not anymore dependent on wild seed stocks since technologies for full-cycle aquaculture has been developed for most of the commodities.

AQD has also embarked on research on mangroves, stock enhancement and community-based fishery resource management to better protect aquatic resources while ensuring that resource users continue to benefit and profit from resource use. With more innovations in fish farming technologies through research-and-development to which AQD plays an important role, fish farms can be both profitable and environment-friendly.

Giant tiger shrimp

The giant tiger shrimp or *Penaeus monodon*, initially produced in the Philippines as an incidental crop in milkfish pond culture, became the country's top dollar earner in the late '70s. This was largely attributed AQD's pioneering work on the biology, broodstock management, and maturation through eyestalk ablation that led to the development of fry production in the hatchery. AQD's studies on tiger shrimp nutrition, health management, and grow-out culture have been very relevant to the shrimp industry's needs.

Milkfish

The pioneering research at AQD on the reproductive and larval biology as well as nutritional requirements of milkfish in the 1970s and the 1980s paved the way for breeding of milkfish in captivity and production of high quality fry. Hatcheries now supply most of the fry and fingerling requirements of the milkfish industry which has seen dramatic expansion from traditional culture in brackishwater ponds to pens and cages in freshwater bodies and coastal waters.

Mud crab

Farming of mud crabs "alimango" has a long history in the Philippines. The use of wild crablets in farming has led to their scarcity. To address this problem, AQD developed the hatchery and nursery technologies in the late 1990s. The development of formulated diet for farming of crabs in 2002 has reduced the use of fish as aquafeed. The completion of the life cycle of *Scylla* species in 1998, the commercial production of crablets in the early 2000s and the improvement in the farming systems made possible the domestication of *Scylla serrata*, an undertaking which AQD pioneered in 2010.

Tropical abalone

AQD has worked on the tropical abalone *Haliotis asinina* since 1994 when stocks from the wild spontaneously spawned. From 1997 to 2006, AQD completed the abalone's life cycle in captivity, developed techniques for mass seed production, developed formulated diets for juveniles, tested grow-out culture in floating sea cages and feeding different types of seaweeds, developed shell-marking for stock enhancement, initiated sea ranching and pilot-tested abalone hatchery with the private sector. In 2005, AQD started the abalone hatchery and grow-out training course and has offered it yearly since then.

Tilapia, carp and catfish

Since its freshwater station was established in 1976, AQD has been at the forefront of freshwater aquaculture R&D, focusing on the breeding and farming of Nile/red tilapia, bighead carp, and the native *clariid* catfish. Feed formulations, farm-based genetic selection schemes and methods for the application of DNA markers in stock management have been developed at AQD. At present, AQD is actively pursuing research on indigenous freshwater fishes like silver therapon and climbing perch both for aquaculture and biodiversity conservation.

Mangroves

Mangrove research at AQD started in 1993. These are on aquasilviculture of different aquaculture commodities (milkfish, prawns, mud crabs) inside the mangroves; capability of mangroves to absorb nutrients; population, biological & ecological studies on mangrove-associated fauna; and impacts of aquaculture on mangroves & fisheries. These led to funding support from international donors and more research work on mangroves by both local and foreign researchers.

Marine fish

The demand for live reef food fish like groupers continues to rise as people realize the health benefits of eating fish. Production of seeds from captive breeding programs for a variety of high value marine fish species like sea bass, red snapper, rabbitfish and pompano for full cycle aquaculture will help ease the pressure on the wild fisheries.



Photo by Jacques Zarate

Seaweeds

Seaweeds are the Philippines' top export commodity, and to help maintain the seaweed industry's competitiveness, AQD created a seaweed R&D team in 1991. The team was tasked to improve the farming technology of *Kappaphycus* and *Gracilaria*, and to develop new strains of *Kappaphycus*. R&D milestones at AQD included: 1) producing *Kappaphycus* plantlets from spores and successfully testing their viability in grow-out culture in the open sea; 2) tissue culture of *Kappaphycus* and extending this technology through training; 3) the use of *Gracilaria* as biofilter; 4) optimizing grow-out techniques to improve production and introducing these techniques in major farming areas in the country like Tawi-tawi and Zamboanga; and 5) publication of a monograph on the Seaweeds of Panay.



Photo by Ma. Rovilla Luhan

Sandfish

The *Holothuria scabra* or sandfish is considered as one of the most commercially-important tropical sea cucumbers threatened by overfishing. In response, AQD has started to improve techniques on sandfish hatchery and nursery production to increase growth and survival. Technologies for grow-out systems are also being evaluated for future industry adoption. With various collaborations among national and international research centers and private institutions, SEAFDEC/AQD is continuing to provide updated science-based awareness to accelerate aquaculture development for sea cucumbers. To meet the high demand for dried *tre pang*, and at the same time, safeguard and enhance sea cucumber populations in the wild.

Giant freshwater prawn

AQD initiated the genetic improvement of the giant freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* in early 2000 in collaboration with BFAR, NFRDI and MSU-Naawan. The 3-year project was funded by the Government of Japan Trust Fund and involved researchers from AQD, Thailand and Indonesia. As a result, seed production studies improved survival in the hatchery from less than 10% to 70%. Subsequently, AQD was able to successfully develop lake-based cage culture and this technology has been transferred to stakeholders in yearly training courses and disseminated through extension manuals; net cage culture of prawn and tilapia is also undertaken. AQD has also characterized the genetics of the Philippine prawn populations, and used the best breeders to develop effective broodstock management schemes for improved growth and reproductive performance.



Photo by Frolan Aya

Community-based fishery resource management

Responding to the declining fish catches, AQD embarked on an eight-year community-based fishery resource management (CFRM) project at Malalison Island, Culasi, Antique in 1991 with funding support from the International Development Research Centre of Canada. Engaging the community in the CFRM project changed the scenario of resource use in the island, from illegal fishing practices to resource users' co-managing fishery resources. Based on Malalison experience, multi-disciplinary, community-based and participatory R&D are now the hallmarks of AQD's approach to development-oriented projects like the uptake of small fishers/farmers on aquaculture technologies through Institutional capacity development for sustainable aquaculture mechanism, stock enhancement, and coastal resource management.

Stock enhancement

The stock enhancement program at AQD started in 2002 as part of a big project funded by the European Commission on the Culture and management of *Scylla* spp. (EC-CAMS). In 2005, the Government of Japan Trust Fund (GOJ-TF) initiated a five-year Resource enhancement program for the giant clam *Tridacna gigas*, abalone *Haliotis* spp. and seahorses *Hippocampus* spp. The GOJ-TF support has been extended until 2014 to include mud crabs *Scylla* spp. and Napoleon wrasse *Cheilinus undulatus*.



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

SEAFDEC supports countries at CITES-CoP16

With support from the Japanese Government, SEAFDEC convened the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation on Common/Coordinated Position for Commercially-exploited Species at CITES-CoP16 on 22 January 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. Attended by high-level officials, the Consultation confirmed the position of the agencies responsible for fisheries on the proposals for listing of several commercially-exploited aquatic species in the CITES appendices, *i.e.* not to support the proposed listing of *Sphyrna lewini* (scalloped hammerhead shark), *Sphyrna*

mokarran (great hammerhead shark), *Sphyrna zygaena* (smooth hammerhead shark), *Carcharhinus longimanus* (oceanic whitetip shark), *Lamna nasus* (Porbeagle shark) and three species of freshwater sting rays.

Subsequently, SEAFDEC also supported the participation of representatives from fisheries authority of the ASEAN Member Countries in CITES-CoP16 held on 3-14 March, in Bangkok, Thailand. Senior officers from SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and MFRDMD also attended the Meeting. ❖

2013 RFPN members at SEAFDEC

Eight (8) government fisheries officers from SEAFDEC Member Countries have been brought together to form the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) for 2013 at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand.

The RFPN members play active role in coordinating and communicating between SEAFDEC and their respective countries. They are also provided the opportunity to attend and provide technical contribution in various events of SEAFDEC in order to enhance their knowledge and experience, as well as to gain better understanding of major global

and regional fisheries issues confronting the region.

They are also engaged to support the development of strategies to promote closer fisheries policy dialogues and regional and/or sub-regional cooperation among the Member Countries and to follow-up on the commitment for the implementation of policies for the ASEAN. After completing their assignment and returning to their respective countries, each RFPN member is expected to take an important role in the development of fisheries in their countries, as well as for the overall region. ❖



First row (L-R): Mr. Aung Toe (Myanmar), Ms. Imelda Riti Anak Rantty (Malaysia), Ms. Hotmaida Purba (Indonesia), and Mr. Leng Sam Ath (Cambodia);
Second row (L-R): Dr. Ronaldo R. Libunao (Philippines), Mr. Tran Van Hao (Vietnam), Mr. Vankham Keophimphone (Lao PDR), and Mr. Sarayoot Boonkumjad (Thailand)

On-site training on energy optimization and safety at sea held in Vietnam



The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, organized a 3-day “On-site Training on Optimizing Energy and Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Vessels” from 19 to 21 March 2013 in Danang, Vietnam. Two staff members from National Research Institute of Fisheries Engineering of the Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) of Japan were invited as resource persons. In all, 23 trainees from the central and local governments participated in the training.

During the training course, the participants were familiarized with the basic and applicable knowledge on energy saving technology and safety at sea. By training on-site, incorporation of the more ideal technologies and fishing practices into the local fishing tradition was made more easily. Fuel measuring equipment was used to verify greater fuel efficiency of the new energy saving method compared with the traditional one. To conclude the training, a mini-workshop was organized to discuss the application of the novel knowledge, as well as the following-up activities at the national and local levels.

This training is an activity under the project on “Optimizing Energy Use and Improving Safety in Fishing Activities,” implemented by TD from 2013. ❖

Training workshop on optimizing energy and safety at sea

The 5-day Regional Training Workshop on Optimizing Energy and Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fishing Vessels was held by the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) from 4 to 8 February 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. As it turned out, some 53 participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries, including TD staff and resource persons, attended the workshop. Using the extensive information packages available at the global, regional and national levels,

the Workshop produced as its output a set of information packages on the subjects, and a draft national workplan for possible adaptation and application by Member Countries at the national level.

With funding from the Japanese Trust Fund, TD will implement this 5-year project from 2013 to enhance energy optimization and safety at sea among small fishing vessels in the region.



On-site training on practical approach to inland fisheries co-management in Thailand

SEAFDEC/TD and the DOF Thailand co-organized a 5-day trainers' training on "Practical Approach to Enhancing Community-based Fisheries Co-management in Inland Fisheries" on 14-18 January 2013. The training was inaugurated by Mr. Surajit Intarachit, Deputy Director-General of Fisheries on 14 January at the Lamtakong Research Station in the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima. A cadre of 40 fishery officers responsible for inland fisheries management attended the

training course. Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), rights-based fisheries, community-based fisheries and co-management, among others were discussed. Lectures on practical techniques on mobile hatchery, cage nursery, and fish stocking were also delivered.

On the last day, some 40 local fishers were mobilized to represent the trainees during the trial practice under close supervision by the trainers.



Participants in the training on practical approach to inland fisheries co-management

Training on tuna identification at tuna cannery

On 26-28 February 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, SEAFDEC/TD trained fishery officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam on tuna species identification at tuna cannery (supported by Kingfisher Holding Ltd.). Dr. Matsumoto from National Far Seas Fisheries of the FRA was invited as resource person.

Yellowfin and bigeye tunas are quite similar in shape, and sorting out these species, especially in younger fish and in frozen form, is quite difficult for an untrained eye. Since the fish are normally sold at the same price, most tuna canneries make little or no effort to sort them out correctly, making the reporting by species of tunas from canneries somewhat unreliable, and hence of little use in studying the individual tuna fish stocks. However, if the reports from canneries could be improved to be more reliable, hectic samplings at landing ports could be avoided.

Practices by the trainees involved tuna identification using existing handbooks, especially to sort out young yellowfin and bigeye tunas from cannery samplings. The species identified by each trainee was then checked and verified by experts. While the samples came with substantial damages to the extent that their key morphological characteristics are missing, DNA verification method was undertaken to confirm the identification by sights.



Trainees learn how to identify tuna species and make reports at tuna cannery

MFRDMD collaborates with BOBLME project on Indian mackerel genetic study

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD collaborated with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to assess the genetic structure of Indian mackerel in the Bay of Bengal region by using microsatellite markers, and undertake region-wide stock structure study to understand the distribution of Indian mackerel stocks in the region.



Preparation of genetic sample collections of Indian mackerel at Kudat, Sabah with assistance of a DoF Sabah fishery officer

In conjunction with this project, MFRDMD started its sample collection with 200 fin clip tissue samples of Indian mackerel collected from Kudat in Sabah and Kuantan in Pahang. These two areas were selected to represent the out-group populations of Indian mackerel, which is the South China Sea. Additional information such as standard length and gonad stage of the fish were also recorded. In addition, MFRDMD would also provide assistance to countries, namely Bangladesh, Maldives and Myanmar, in undertaking genetic analysis of Indian mackerel. In this regard, tissue samples would be analyzed at the Conservation Genetic Laboratory at MFRDMD, and it is expected that the final report would be submitted by the end of 2013.

It is hoped that through the collaborative activity with BOBLME,



Preparation of genetic sample collections of Indian mackerel at Kuantan, Pahang

as well as relevant genetic study undertaken by MFRDMD, the functions of MFRDMD in the development and management of marine fisheries in the region would be strengthened, and the regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries could also be improved. ❖

TD launches sea floor mapping workshop

SEAFDEC/TD organized the Training Workshop on Benthic Habitat Mapping on 18-22 February 2013 at its premises in Samut Prakan. Participated by technical personnel from SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Workshop discussed the mapping techniques and procedures to chart what is technically recognized as “benthic habitat” where sea-bottom dwellers thrive. The Workshop covered comprehensive themes ranging from the overview of mapping to habitat identification, as well as sampling design, survey tools and techniques. Also

addressed were types of data acquired and analyses in order to produce the map of a target area showing various types of habitats on sea floor. After dealing with classroom discussions for the first two days, a 3-day practice onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was held in the Gulf of Thailand. With the modern facilities aboard the vessel, information was gathered by the participants through hydro-acoustic and underwater video equipment to assess the dimensions and qualities of existing sea floor habitats. ❖



Regional workshop on fisheries co-management



SEAFDEC/TD organized a 3-day regional workshop on “Promotion of Alternative Livelihoods Business through the Establishment of Autonomous Fisheries Community-based Resources Co-management System” starting from 25 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. Some 35 fisheries officers from the Member Countries participated. It is hoped that after the workshop, these fisheries officers would be able to conduct training on fisheries co-management in their respective countries, by introducing alternative livelihood businesses and other fisheries related activities as means to improve the local economy. ❖

Workshop to improve fisheries data collection

TD organized a 3-day workshop on “Improvement of Fisheries Data Collection in Coastal Small-scale and Inland Fisheries of the Southeast Asian Region” in Bangkok, Thailand on 28-30 January 2013. Attended by representatives from the Member Countries, the Workshop aimed to discuss the ways and means of improving fisheries data collection for small-scale fisheries in coastal and inland areas. Experts in questionnaire design, data collection methodology and tools used in fisheries census from Thailand’s National Statistical Office, Kasetsart University, Iwate Prefectural University,



and Kochi University were invited as resource persons. By the end of the workshop, a set of problems in fisheries data collection of each SEAFDEC Member Country, and the ways to mitigate them were identified. ✦

SEAFDEC participates workshop on climate change in the Lower Mekong Basin

On 28-29 March 2013, SEAFDEC took part in the Final Results Workshop on “Climate Change Impact and Adaption Study for the Lower Mekong Basin” convened in Bangkok by Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (ARCC) and funded by USAID with participation of the expert participants from Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Workshop reviewed the penultimate draft of the “Climate Change Impact and Adaption Study for the Lower Mekong Basin”, which

examined how climate change impacts on agriculture production, fisheries, livestock and ecosystems in the Lower Mekong basin. The study presented scientific evidences based on information on selected provinces in the lower Mekong countries, and with local knowledge, the study would help the communities prepare for local climate change adaptation assessments and plans for action in community and government planning. In this regard, SEAFDEC provided inputs on fisheries aspects during the thematic technical discussions. ✦

Training on data management system for Myanmar officers

TD organized the National Training Course on Fisheries Data Management System on 28-29 March 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar. Fisheries officers of Myanmar were trained on the use of “Fish Landing Data Management System”, which is a software developed by TD to store fishery data collected from landing sites, e.g. fishing ground, fishing port, species composition by specific types of boat/gear, length frequency by species, gonad maturation, fishing gear, fishing method, etc., in order to improve analysis, and reporting fishery landing data at the local and national levels. ✦

SEAFDEC convenes workshop on fish passage

The Workshop on Fish Passage in Southeast Asia: Principles of Improved Fish Passage at Cross-river Obstacles with Relevance to Southeast Asia was organized by SEAFDEC on 17-20 March 2013 in Khon Kaen Province, Thailand, with support from FAO. MRC and ACIAR also extended support that enabled additional participants to attend the Workshop.

The workshop noted the importance of inland fisheries, and the characteristics of inland fisheries where several fish species require migration and movement for their life cycle requirements. It

Training on fisheries information collection

The Regional Training for Trainers on Effective Fisheries Information Gathering and Data Collection in Coastal Small-scale and Inland Fisheries for Southeast Asia was organized by TD in Samut Prakan from 26 February to 3 March 2013.

Discussed in the training course were the needs and importance of various types of fishery information and their importance in supporting sustainable fisheries management, and the application of various information collection techniques to specific situations in coastal and inland fisheries.

One full day was earmarked for a workshop where the trainees and resource persons tabled their personal experiences in fishery information collection for the development of the most suitable model for regional fishery information collection. ✦



was also noted that the wide range of stakeholders involved in the utilization of inland water resources creates impacts



Representative from FAO and resource persons during the Workshop

(Continued on Page 15)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer
2013			
1-5 April	Cebu, Philippines	45 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC
1-5 April	Rizal, Philippines	Training on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
10-12 April	Tamil Nadu, India	International Seminar-Workshop on Mud Crab Aquaculture	AQD
22-26 April	Rizal, Philippines	Training on Carp Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
22 April - 6 May	Iloilo, Philippines	Training on Sandfish (<i>Holothuria scabra</i>) Seed Production, Nursery and Management	AQD
2-3 May	Bangkok, Thailand	Regional Expert Forum on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security in ASEAN	ASEAN, FAO, and GIZ
6-10 May	Mauritius	17 th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	IOTC
6-10 May	Samut Prakan, Thailand	2013 Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour	FAO and SEAFDEC
7-27 May	Iloilo, Philippines	Training on Abalone Hatchery and Grow-out	AQD
8-9 May	Iloilo, Philippines	International Workshop on Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia	AQD
8-11 May	Thailand	FAO/GEF Regional Technical Workshop on Data Collection Procedures-Mapping, Information and Data Requirement	REBYC-II CTI
13-17 May	Vietnam	On-site Training on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Fisheries Management	TD
20 May - 7 June	Rizal, Philippines	Training on Freshwater Aquaculture	AQD
20-24 May	Rome, Italy	Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries	FAO
20-24 May	Siem Reap, Cambodia	Training on Practical Approach to Co-management in Inland Fisheries of Cambodia	TD
21 May - 12 June	Iloilo, Philippines	Training on Mud Crab Hatchery, Nursery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
3-7 June	Siem Reap, Cambodia	On-site Training Course on Practical Approach to Right-based Fisheries Management in Inland Fisheries of Cambodia	TD
17-21 June	Lao PDR	On-site Training on Practical Approach to Rights-based Fisheries Management	TD
18-21 June	Bali, Indonesia	Asia Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth	Indonesia
24-26 June	Manila, Philippines	FAO/RPOA Expert Workshop on the Development of Tools to Combat IUU Fishing - The Comprehensive Global Records of Fishing Vessels	FAO, RPOA-IUU
24-28 June	Rizal, Philippines	Training on Freshwater Prawn Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
25 Jun-31 Jul	Iloilo, Philippines	Training on Marine Fish Hatchery	AQD
15-19 July	Rizal, Philippines	Training on Tilapia Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
22-23 July	Vientiane, Lao PDR	5 th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)	ASEAN
24-26 July	Vientiane, Lao PDR	21 st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF)	ASEAN
22 Jul-13 Dec	(through Internet)	On-line/Distance Learning Course: Basic Principles of Aquaculture Nutrition	AQD
9-13 September	Hague, Netherland	Global Summit Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth	The Netherlands
16-20 September	Rizal, Philippines	Training on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
7-11 October	St. Petersburg, Russia	7 th Session of COFI - Sub-Committee on Aquaculture	FAO
21-25 October	Rizal, Philippines	Training on Carp Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
25 Nov-4 Dec	Iloilo, Philippines	Training on Community-based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast Asia	AQD

A new Special Departmental Coordinator for MFRDMD



*The new SDC of
MFRDMD,
Mr. Raja Bidin
Raja Hassan*

On 27 March 2013, a small ceremony for duty handover was held at SEAFDEC/MFRDMD between the former Special Departmental Coordinator (SDC), Mr. Abu Talib Ahmad and the newly designated SDC, Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan.

Mr. Abu Talib Ahmad was the SDC of MFRDMD for the last five years and as of 30 March 2013 he has been transferred to be Research Director at Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) in Batu Maung, Penang.



SEAFDEC convenes Workshop on Fish Passage

(Continued from Page 13)

across the sectors, while cross-river obstacles affect the inter-connectivity of habitats, and biodiversity of aquatic species. From the countries' presentations, however, only few countries in the region had incorporated fish passage(s) in the construction of cross-river obstacles, and most of the existing fish passages do not demonstrate to have attained very good performance.

The important recommendations from the workshop included the need to compile biological information on important fish species as basis for designing fish passage, and that the construction of fish passes should be incorporated in dam projects' initial phase of planning and construction. Methodologies to value the benefits from fish passage are also necessary, while relevant information, *e.g.* on potential impacts from cross-river obstacles, mitigation of impacts through fish passages, should be packaged and publicized. In addition, solution(s) should also be explored to mitigate impacts from existing low-head weirs, which created large extent of impacts to habitat connectivity in the region.



SEAFDEC Third Review

(Continued from Page 16)

The Meeting reviewed the views and recommendations arising from the Review Committee's First Meeting together with those obtained from missions to discuss with relevant officers in the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as with the SEAFDEC National Coordinators during the 35th SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting.

This led to the compilation of the Review Committee's views and recommendations on the future of SEAFDEC, which had been incorporated in the Report of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee to be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration during its 45th Meeting in April 2013.



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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Intergovernmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade

SEAFDEC co-organized with the Coral Triangle Initiative-Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), the Intergovernmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) from 31 January to 1 February 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The forum brought together senior officials and heads of fisheries agencies of the relevant countries to share and synergise strategies and identify solutions to support the development and sustainability of LRFFT industry in each country and for the region as a whole.

LRFFT involves large extent of irresponsible fishing practices including IUU fishing, which leads to overfishing, threatens the coral reef ecosystems, as well as impacts to the marine biodiversity in the broad regional context. LRFFT has continued to expand across the region in response to the increasing demand and shortage of fish supply. Although aquaculture has been practiced for some species, but this could not solve the problem on LRFFT as aquaculture still requires capture of juvenile fish and

needs low-value fish as feed. In addition, the complexity of LRFFT which is transboundary in nature, also involves illegal trade of prohibited species in several cases.

After the update on the status of LRFFT, the Forum discussed and identified common approaches to deal with LRFFT, and adopted the “Resolution on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade for the Southeast Asian and CTI-CFF Member Countries”, with SEAFDEC serving as Interim Secretariat for LRFFT regional forum, and supported by the CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat and the US-CTI Support Program. In this regard, SEAFDEC would submit the adopted Resolution to the forthcoming SEAFDEC Council to seek the support of the other Southeast Asian countries, as well as for the way forward to ensure the sustainability of LRFFT in the region.



The Resolution signed by six countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Vietnam, witnessed by SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF



SEAFDEC Third Review

SEAFDEC Secretariat facilitated the conduct of the Second Meeting of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee on 6-8 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by seven members of the Review Committee as well as the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC as the Secretary to the Committee.



Members of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee: (from left to right) Dr. Deb Menasveta, Dr. Purwito Martosubroto, Dr. Rolando Platon, Prof. Junichiro Okamoto, Mr. Hla Win, Dato' Junaidi bin Che Ayub, and Dr. Le Thanh Luu

(Continued on Page 15)

SEAFDEC bids farewell to Mr. Kenji Matsumoto

After serving as Deputy Chief of the Training Department (TD) and concurrent Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC since April 2010, Mr. Kenji Matsumoto has completed his assignment at SEAFDEC in March 2013. During his term, Mr. Matsumoto played significant roles particularly in driving the implementation of projects supported by the Japanese Trust Fund towards achieving its objectives in enhancing sustainable fisheries production from the region. The farewell reception to honor the completion of Mr. Matsumoto's task with SEAFDEC was arranged on 22 March at the premises of TD in Samut Prakan.



SEAFDEC Secretary-General expressing his appreciation to the work of Mr. Matsumoto at SEAFDEC (above); and Mr. Hajime Kawamura (right)



To carry on the momentum of the activities steered by Mr. Matsumoto, the Japanese Government recently nominated Mr. Hajime Kawamura as the new Deputy Chief of TD. Mr. Kawamura has worked for the staff of Cabinet Secretariat of Japan, and has extensive experience working at the Fisheries

Agency of Japan for more than 30 years, including his temporary transfer to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). His knowledge and expertise on research and management of fisheries resources are envisaged to contribute greatly to the fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region through the SEAFDEC activities.

