



# THE THIRD ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENETICALLY IMPROVED STRAIN OF MACROBRACHIUM

**Bangkok, Thailand  
3-4 December 2005**

## INTRODUCTION

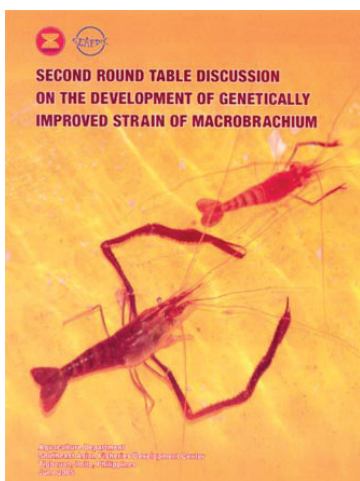
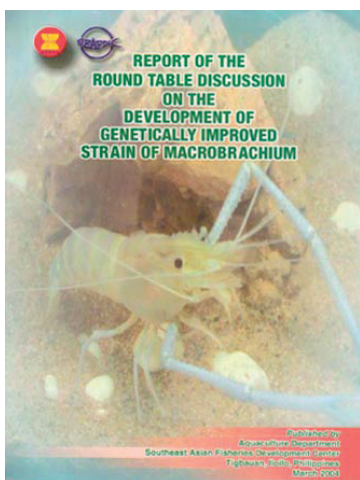
During the Seminar-Workshop on the Integrated Regional Aquaculture Program (IRAP) as the Aquaculture Component of the Special Five-Year Program, held in Thailand in September 2002, a common species with the required technology was identified as priority by three countries. The giant freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and the genetic improvement and seed production of the giant freshwater prawn, were identified as the priority common species and the required technology, respectively. Thus, the collaborative project on Genetic Improvement and Seed Production of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* has been conducted as part of the activities of IRAP from 2003 to 2005 with Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines as the participating countries. The collaborative project was intended to optimize resources in these countries while working towards the improvement of the genetic characteristics and seed production technology of *M. rosenbergii*.

Including this meeting, three Roundtable Discussions have been conducted under this Collaborative Project.

Convened in Sukabumi, West Java, Indonesia in November 2003, the first discussion came up with the following recommendations: (a) adoption of common criteria for “good quality *Macrobrachium* seed”; (b) standardization of methodologies in the development of a genetically improved *Macrobrachium* strain; (c) formulation of a definite work plan for the collaborative project; and (d) development of mechanisms for the dissemination of research results and use of genetic materials on *Macrobrachium*.

During the First Roundtable Discussion, it was agreed that the participating countries work on specific activities to avoid duplication of efforts. Thus, Indonesia concentrated on the Evaluation of the growth rate of GI (Genetically Improved) Macro II strain in different locations while Thailand’s work is on the selective breeding for genetic improvement of *M. rosenbergii*. The Philippines has been tasked to study the morphometric characterization and performance evaluation of *Macrobrachium* stocks and closely related species in the Philippines.

The Second Roundtable Discussion was conducted in Dagupan City and the Science City of Muñoz in the Philippines in September 2004 to: (a) assess the progress of activities of the collaborative project; (b) identify problems encountered in the implementation of the planned activities; (c) develop training and information components in relation to the planned activities; and (d) recommend future course of action for the implementation of the collaborative project.



*Report of the First Discussion (top) was printed in 2004, and the Second Discussion Report (below) was printed in 2005*



In order to continue assessing the progress and status of the activities in the participating countries, the Third Roundtable Discussion was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 4 December 2005 in order to:

1. assess the progress of activities under the collaborative project;
2. identify problems and concerns;
3. evaluate technologies through the collaborative project; and
4. recommend future course of action for the collaborative project under the second phase of the Special Five-Year Program.

## THE THIRD ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

### *Rationale*

Since the recommendations during the 2003 Roundtable Discussion included an annual evaluation of the progress of activities on the status of the projects and an assessment of the problems in the implementation of the activities, the Third Roundtable Discussion was therefore necessary and this was convened in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 4 December 2005.

Under the collaborative project are the following three major activities being implemented in the participating countries:

1. **Indonesia:** Genetic improvement of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* with emphasis on the assessment of the performance of the genetically improved (GI) Macro;
2. **Thailand:** Selective breeding program for genetic improvement of the giant freshwater prawn; and
3. **Philippines:** Morphometric characterization and performance evaluation of *Macrobrachium* stocks and closely related species in the Philippines.

The status of these activities needs to be assessed in order to develop a technology for consistent and improved production of quality freshwater prawn seedstock that will be disseminated to countries in the region.



*The Third Round Table Discussion Participants*