

## **FOREWORD**

Traditional aquaculture has been practised by fish farmers of Southeast Asia for centuries. In the last 15 years or so, however, the introduction and development of modern and innovative aquaculture technologies have transformed this age-old occupation into a major industry that has increased the national fish production, produced much-needed export earnings, and generated employment and business opportunities.

Acknowledged worldwide is the role of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in promoting the growth of aquaculture in the region. SEAFDEC performs this role through its Aquaculture Department (AQD) which it established in 1973 in the Philippines with the mandate to undertake research and provide training for aquaculture manpower.

A great deal of aquaculture progress and success has been accomplished since the birth of SEAFDEC and AQD 20 and 15 years ago, respectively. But these must be assessed in the light of present and future needs and challenges. This was the rationale for the regional Seminar on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA '87) held in Iloilo City, Philippines, on 8-12 September 1987. Also convened to commemorate the 20th foundation anniversary of SEAFDEC, the conference was attended by senior aquaculturists from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines, together with representatives of various international organizations, Philippine government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector, including fishfarmers' associations.

The seminar reexamined the existing aquaculture technologies in Southeast Asia, evaluated the contribution of AQD to these technologies, and identified future directions for aquaculture in the region which include areas in research and training where closer collaboration between AQD and SEAFDEC Member Countries should be strengthened.

This Proceedings is a comprehensive account of the seminar. It contains the papers read and discussed at the sessions, and the recommendations reached and formulated.

**It is our hope that through this publication AQD is again able to effectively disseminate valuable information for the benefit of aquaculturists, researchers, planners and decision-makers, resource managers, and the general public as envisioned by the founders of SEAFDEC.**

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