The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), a regional treaty organization based in Bangkok, Thailand, was established in December 1967 to promote fisheries development in the region. Its Member Countries are Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Union of Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia and Lao People’s Democratic Republic. The Council of Directors, who represent SEAFDEC Member Countries, is the policy-making body of the organization.

SEAFDEC conducts research on appropriate fisheries technologies, trains fisheries and aquaculture technicians, and disseminates fisheries and aquaculture technologies. Four departments were established to pursue these objectives:

- The Training Department (TD) in Samut Prakan, Thailand (1967) for marine capture fisheries training;
- The Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) in Singapore (1967) for fishery post-harvest technology;
- The Aquaculture Department (AQD) in Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines (1973) for aquaculture research and development; and
- The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia (1992) for the development and management of marine fishery resources in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of SEAFDEC Member Countries.

SEAFDEC/AQD is mandated to:

- Promote and undertake aquaculture research that is relevant and appropriate for the region;
- Develop human resources for the region; and
- Disseminate and exchange information on aquaculture.

The Aquaculture Department (AQD) maintains two stations and two substations in the Philippines: the Tigbauan Main Station and the Dumangas Brackishwater Substation in Iloilo Province; the Igang Marine Substation in Guimaras Province; and the Binangonan Freshwater Station in Rizal Province.