

FOREWORD

The idea of holding this Symposium was brought about by the growing interest in the role of algae in the economic life of the peoples of the developing countries in Southeast Asia. The use of algae as food, as raw materials in the production of industrial phycocolloids, and as natural feed for economically important aquaculture species has been highlighted recently in developed countries in Asia and other parts of the world. The need for information on recent developments in this area of concern was the primary consideration in the holding of this Symposium.

Efforts to organize the Symposium started in early 1981 under the auspices of UNESCO through its Regional Headquarters of Network for Microbiology in Southeast Asia in cooperation with the National Institute of Science and Technology Authority. The Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in Tigbauan, Iloilo, hosted the Symposium and provided the secretariat services and funds to support a number of local participants.

Attendance in the Symposium included fifteen full participants from different institutions from seven countries, students and faculty of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, and other observers.

Thirteen papers were presented covering a wide variety of topics from culture of micro and macroalgae to processing of algal products and their utilization in industry as natural feed for aquaculture animals, status of seaweed resources and their production, and the biology and use of algal population as indicator of the environmental state of the aquatic environment.

This late the Aquaculture Department of SEAFDEC decided to publish the proceedings of the Symposium because the information therein continue to be relevant to aquaculture.

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