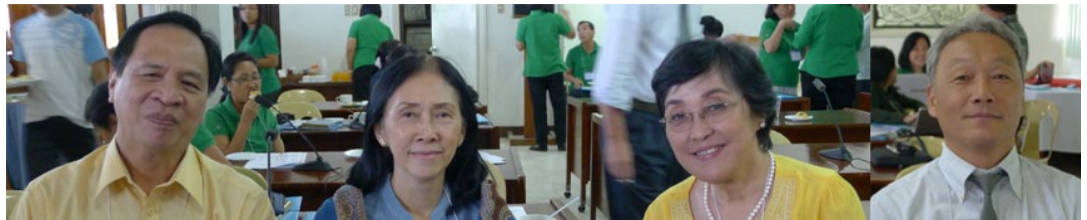


# SEAFDEC AQD Matters

Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD), Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

## GOJ-TF projects reviewed



A total of 34 studies were reviewed by (L-R) Dr. Carlos Baylon of the University of the Philippines Visayas; Dr. Zubaida Basiao of the University of the Philippines Diliman; Dr. Clarissa Marte of the Integrated Services for the Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries; Mr. Hidenao Watanabe, SEAFDEC Secretariat assistant trust fund manager; and Dr. Mitsuru Ootake (not in the picture) of the Fisheries Research Agency in Japan (who sent his evaluation by mail)

**W**e are very thankful for our partnership with AQD and hopeful that the stock enhancement project will continue until the community can completely manage the marine resources in the area,” says Mr. Mayo Antonio Cuevas, Superintendent of Sagay Marine Reserve (SMR). The community project is implemented at SMR as part of the GOJ-TF program on

resource enhancement of internationally threatened and over-exploited species in Southeast Asia.

The resource enhancement project is one of the four programs evaluated during the *Annual progress meeting of the program under ASEAN-SEAFDEC Consultative Group mechanism funded by the Government of Japan Trust Fund*. The meeting was held 8-9 February in Tigbauan, Iloilo.

“We are grateful of the technical advances that AQD introduced to the community. It really helps our local barangays especially Molocaboc where we have very little alternative to fishing after SMR implemented the no-take policy,” Mr. Cuevas added. He and 70 others, including AQD study leaders, attended the meeting.

The three other thematic programs under GOJ-TF are (1) promotion of sustainable and region-oriented aquaculture practices; (2) accelerating awareness and capacity-building in fish health management in Southeast Asia; and (3) food safety of aquaculture products in Southeast Asia.

The evaluators acknowledged AQD’s efforts in addressing aquaculture issues and conducting research despite the limited budget. They noted that AQD should strengthen further its collaboration with external academic and government organizations. They also suggested that AQD evaluates the impact of its training program considering the number of GOJ-TF supported courses.



Dr. Teruo Azuma (leftmost), trust fund manager for AQD projects and AQD’s Deputy Chief, thanks the project personnel for their output. Mr. Jose Robert Togle (middle), research head of Sagay Marine Reserve (SMR) and Mr. Mayo Antonio Cuevas (rightmost), SMR Superintendent express their appreciation to AQD for the stock enhancement project at Molocaboc



GOJ-TF study leaders and/or presenters at the annual progress meeting (Top, L-R) Breeding & seed production section head Dr. Emilia Quintinio, Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa, Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia, Ms. Maria Rovilla Luhan, Dr. Fiona Pedrosa, Dr. Frolan Aya, and Nutrition & feed development section head Dr. Mae Catacutan (Middle, L-R) Ms. Didi Baticados, Training section head Ms. Kaylin Corre, Ms. Ruby Bombeo, Training & information division head Dr. Myrna Teruel, Ms. Margarita Arnaiz, Research Division Head Dr. Relicardo Coloso, and Ms. Shelah Mae Buen-Ursua (Bottom, L-R) Ms. Marie Frances Nievaes, Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos, Socioeconomics section head Dr. Nerissa Salayo, Mr. Caryl Genzola, Fish health section head Dr. Edgar Amar, Ms. Gregoria Pagador, Technology verification & demonstration division head Dr. Leobert dela Peña, and Dr. Rolando Pakingking

## AQD joins JTF meeting



**A**QD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo, along with Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma, and Special Departmental Coordinator Ms. Belen Acosta attended the *2nd Meeting of SEAFDEC for Review of Japanese Trust Fund Programs* held 22-23 February in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the meeting, Dr. Azuma presented the summary of progress and plans of AQD's on-going regional projects to the evaluators and

representatives of SEAFDEC Secretariat & the departments.

External evaluators were also present including Dr. Rolando Platon, former AQD Chief. The evaluators noted that the accomplishments of JTF projects are commendable; however, SEAFDEC should cooperate more closely with ASEAN member countries to ensure that benefits of R&D trickle down to its target beneficiaries. - **B Acosta**

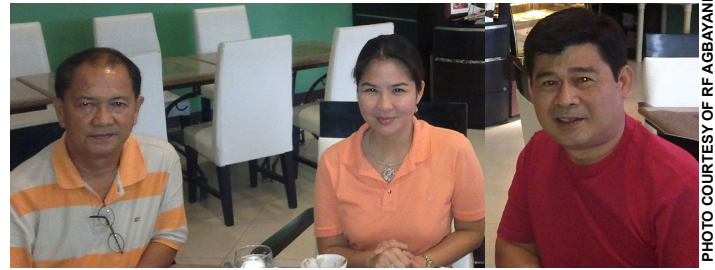
## New partnerships discussed

**O**n 21 January, AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo and Institutional Capacity Development for Sustainable Aquaculture (ICDSA) Consultant Mr. Renato Agbayani had a meeting with Bais City Mayor Karen Villanueva who expressed her interest in collaborating with AQD.

Mayor Villanueva wants AQD to undertake capacity building for

selected Bais City staff. Dr. Toledo suggested that a site assessment be conducted by AQD scientists, on the socioeconomic and the techno-ecological condition of potential aquaculture sites in Bais City.

She will lead a team of her staff to visit AQD Tigbauan Main Station and be oriented with its R&D activities. - **RF Agbayani**



L-R: ICDSA Consultant Mr. Renato Agbayani, Bais City Mayor Karen Villanueva, and AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo

PHOTO COURTESY OF RF AGBAYANI

## AQD trains fisherfolk of Molocaboc

**F**or five days beginning 20 February, AQD conducted two separate courses on *Abalone and sandfish stocking & culture technology* with 10 selected Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (BFARMC) members of Molocaboc, Sagay, Negros Occidental as participants.

These courses funded by the Government of Japan Trust Fund include topics on abalone stocking & feeding of juveniles in cages, survival & feed conversion ratios, spawning & larval rearing in tanks, feeding, egg collection, counting & incubation, biology & life cycle of sandfish, broodstock selection, and larval rearing. In addition, the participants visited AQD's research station in Igang and UP Visayas.

Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma who was present at the closing ceremony expressed his hope that the participants will be successful in the stock enhancement and culture practices of the two species. Especially now that they are equipped with the technologies and knowledge imparted to them by all the resource persons.

**"Gapasalamat gid ako sa tanan nga SEAFDEC personnel, ging himo nyo gid ang tanan nga daghan gid kami mabal-an, nakalipay gid namo nga ging tagaan kami oportunidad nga magtraining diri sa SEAFDEC."** (We are thankful to all SEAFDEC personnel, who did their best in teaching us. We are happy that we were given an opportunity to train here at SEAFDEC)

Ms. Anicia Abong  
BFARMC member of Molocaboc



The trainees observe hatchery operations (top), and prepare settlement plate (middle) for abalone; and conduct spawning trial for sandfish (above)

RT BALITISTA

R PAGADOR

## AQD supports student to be a research winner

AQD researcher Ms. Shelah Mae Buen-Ursua assisted Michael Angelo Dejando from Oton National High School – Special Science Class in the conduct of his study on the survival of mysid shrimps *Mesopodopsis orientalis* in different iodine concentrations and exposure time. His research won 2nd place (life science - individual category) during the 2012 National Children's Science Congress held in Puerto Princesa, Palawan from 1 to 3 February.



Michael Angelo Dejando holding his certificate with (L-R) ONHS adviser Mr. Marvin Rojo, AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo, and AQD researcher Ms. Shelah Mae Buen-Ursua

## AQD welcomes DOST Secretary



Hon. Secretary Mario Montejo of the Department of Science and Technology visited AQD's main station in Tigbauan on 29 February to get updated with the DOST funded studies on milkfish and shrimp by UP Visayas in collaboration with AQD. AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo toured him around AQD's feedmill plant and experimental hatcheries for marine fish, sandfish, abalone, mud crab, and integrated milkfish broodstock hatchery complex. Sec. Montejo also visited the small-scale abalone and multi-species marine fish hatchery used as a technology demonstration area for fish farmers.

## Research seminars



**Dr. Tomoyuki Okutsu** of Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences presented on 8 February his studies on (1) *Molecular cloning and characterization of Dmc1, a gene involved in gametogenesis, from the*

*whiteleg shrimp Litopenaeus vannamei* and (2) *Production of trout offspring from triploid salmon parents: Surrogate broodstock technique using xenogeneic transplantation of spermatogonia.*

In his first study Dr. Okutsu explained that through RT-PCR and hybridization analysis it was found out that *L. vannamei* Dmc1 is a potentially useful indicator of the early stages of germ cell development.

For his second study, he transplanted spermatogonia from male trout into the peritoneal cavity of newly hatched sterile triploid salmon. Two years after transplantation, sterile salmon recipients produced trout sperm and eggs. Using these salmon as parents, offspring were successfully produced. He concluded that it is possible to preserve fish genetic resources and to revive extinct species through xenogeneic spermatogonial transplantation into sterile recipients.



**Dr. Teruo Miyazaki** of Mie University, Japan gave a seminar on (1) *Histopathological study on nephropathy associated with melamine and cyanuric acid in fishes* and (2) *Introduction of poxvirus disease in fishes* on 29 February.

Dr. Miyazaki explained first his study on the electron microscopic features of the swollen kidney of amberjack *Seriola dumerili* and yellowtail *Seriola quinqueradiata* seedlings. Based on the findings, he conducted a feeding experiment using tiger puffer juveniles and feeds containing cyanuric acid and melamine to test the cause of nephropathy. The result showed that fish fed with cyanuric acid and melamine displayed severe nephropathy same as amberjack and yellowtail.

In his second presentation he noted that poxvirus affects fishes such as koi carp, goldfish, and ayu-fish in Japan. This is also called "sleepy disease" because diseased fish usually display sleepy behavior. He also said that poxvirus infect respiratory epithelial cells of the gill lamellae, resulting in swelling with an enlarged nucleus, necrosis and separation from gill tissues. He added that these changes cause hyperplasia of gill epithelial cells resulted in fusion of adjacent gill lamellae and clubbing of gill filaments.

## Events and Invites



For the past two years, Aquatech-Aquaculture Convention Philippines has been gathering experts to update the industry with its latest technology and development on aquaculture.

Aquatech will be held at Lewis Grand Hotel, Angeles City, Pampanga from 19 to 20 April. It is organized by Events Quality & Interactive Promotions Inc, American Soybean Association - Int'l Marketing, World Aquaculture Society - Asia Pacific Chapter, WorldFish Center, and AQD.

For more information, you may visit [www.equipincinteractive.com](http://www.equipincinteractive.com).

## 8<sup>th</sup> Philippine Shrimp Congress

Shrimp farmers and industry stakeholders are invited to take part in the 8<sup>th</sup> Philippine shrimp congress that will be held 9-11 May at the La Planta Hotel, Bacolod City. The congress is organized by Negros Prawn Producers Marketing Cooperative Inc in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Science and Technology, AQD, and UP Visayas.

Registration form can be downloaded at <http://www.seafdec.org.ph/2012/8th-philippine-shrimp-congress/>.

## Calling all AQD training alumni

AQD invites all its training alumni to fill-up the survey form which can be downloaded at [www.seafdec.org.ph](http://www.seafdec.org.ph) and return it by 30 June.

This activity aims to assess the impact of AQD's training programs.



## AQD's New faces



**Julius Manuel de Pili** is a Systems & Network Administrator at the Development Communication Section. He is a BS Computer Engineering graduate from Western Institute of Technology, Iloilo City.



**Jesserylle dela Peña** earned her Bachelor degree in Library and Information Science at the UP Diliman, Quezon City. She is assigned as Information Assistant at the Library and Databanking Services Section.



**Christine Ojerio** is an Administrative Assistant I at the Engineering Section. She is a BS Community Development graduate at Western Visayas College of Science and Technology.



**Michael Ray Burlas** is a Technical Assistant at Breeding & Seed Production Section. He is a BS Biology graduate at Visayas State University, Leyte and currently taking up his Masters degree in Fisheries at UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo. He assists Dr. Emilia Quintito on her study *Verification of feeding and water management techniques for mud crab *Scylla serrata* seed production*.



**Germin Moquera** earned her BS degree in Fisheries at UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo. She is assigned as Technical Assistant at Breeding and Seed Production Section. She assists in two studies of Dr. Fiona Pedroso on (1) *Stock enhancement of napoleon wrasse* and (2) *Development of hatchery techniques of emerging species*.



**Roselyn Noran** earned her BS degree in Fisheries at UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo. She is assigned as Technical Assistant at Farming System & Aquatic Ecology Section. She assists Dr. Jon Altamirano on his study *Determination of optimal condition for sandfish culture*.



### AQD Matters

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