

SEAFDEC AQD Matters

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

AQD activities get second endorsement

As the second of the three-step approval process for its 2014 activities, AQD made presentations to the 36th SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM) in Penang, Malaysia from 25 to 29 November. After the review, PCM expressed its appreciation to AQD for successfully carrying out projects for sustainable aquaculture development. PCM essentially endorsed the 2014 activities but requested AQD to:

- Coordinate with Malaysia to ensure that SEAFDEC guidelines on the use of antibiotics and chemicals on aquaculture are in harmony with the guidelines of Malaysia under the ASEAN framework;
- Continue undertaking genetic improvement of economically important species in Southeast Asia and addressing emerging issues on shrimp diseases, particularly the early mortality syndrome (EMS). Japan expressed willingness to support AQD in its EMS research through the Japanese Trust Fund;
- Include the assessment of carbon emission from aquaculture in the planning of its future activities;
- Continue sharing the information on aquaculture technology development and providing technical assistance to support rural aquaculture development activities in Myanmar;
- Implement R&D on seed production of eel in hatcheries based on outcomes of the proposed expert consultation on the status of eels in SEA



Photo courtesy of B Acosta

AQD participants with Philippine delegates (Mr. Sammy Malvas and Mr. Dennis del Socorro of BFAR) and Mrs. Virgilia Sulit (SEAFDEC Secretariat)



Photo by B Acosta

At the presentation of AQD programs (L-R): AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson, MFRDMD Chief Ms. Mahyam Mohd. Isa, MFRDMD Deputy Chief Dr. Masaya Katoh, and MFRD Chief Mr. Yeap Soon Eong

PCM also reviewed the activities of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and AQD's sister departments in Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. It was held back-to-back with the 16th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group/ ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG-ASSP) where discussions focused on the follow-up actions to the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council or noted in fisheries-related meetings organized by SEAFDEC and ASEAN.

The 2013 PCM comprised over 50 delegates from 11 member-countries of SEAFDEC; senior officials from SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat; and representatives from collaborating partners such as ASEAN-US Maximizing Agriculture through

Knowledge, Enterprise Development, and Trade (MARKET) Project; Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat; the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand; Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat; National Agriculture Training Council (NATC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry Malaysia; US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM).

AQD activities were first reviewed and endorsed by the Philippine Technical & Administrative Committee for SEAFDEC on 29 October. The SEAFDEC Council, meeting in early 2014, will be the approving authority.

-By Belen Acosta



photo courtesy of V Sulit

Participants of the 16th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership

Aquaculture training

Freshwater aquaculture

Nine trainees from Cambodia, Egypt, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam completed the course on *Community-based freshwater aquaculture for*

remote areas of Southeast Asia held from 4 November to 4 December.

The lectures and practicals included the overview of freshwater aquaculture in Southeast Asia; hatchery,

broodstock management & grow-out of commercially important freshwater species like tilapia, bighead carp, catfish, and freshwater prawn; aquatic ecology; design & construction of tanks, cages, pens, and ponds; preparation of feeds; major diseases; and sustainable management of small-scale farms. Participants also visited BFAR – National Fisheries Biological Center in Batangas and a catfish farm in Bulacan.

The training was initiated through the Government of Japan Trust Fund to help Southeast Asian countries adopt freshwater aquaculture.



Photos by R Lacierda

Trainees with AQD scientist Dr. Rolando Pakingking Jr during their demo on fish health management



Participants during their practicals on carp induced spawning

Shrimp

Completing the two-week course on *Shrimp hatchery operation and management* on 19 November were three trainees from Cambodia (Mr. Em Thearith), Egypt (Dr. Mona Azzan

Hassan Abdat), and the Philippines (Ms. Nori Abegail Acebes).

The trainees were thankful that the AQD resource persons unselfishly shared their knowledge and skills. “I found that everything in AQD is up-to-date, from knowledge to experience, and now I am sure I can start my hatchery in a scientific way,” said Dr. Abdat. In addition, Mr. Thearith said that he will apply what he learned from the course in Cambodia.

The course had lectures and practical sessions on larval rearing, eyestalk ablation, natural food production, feed preparation, shrimp disease monitoring, shrimp grow-out management and others. The trainees also visited the AQD stations in Dumangas, Iloilo and Igang, Guimaras which, according to Ms. Acebes, had helped in planning how to put up her own hatchery and grow-out facilities.



Trainees identify shrimp larval stages, and Dr. MAH Abdat observes shrimp mysis



AQD scientist Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa lectures on the biology of Penaeid shrimps



A practical session on natural food production

All photos by R Lacierda



Christmas Messages

FROM AQD'S MANAGEMENT



Dr. Felix Ayson, Chief:

It's Christmas time once again, the time of the year when everyone should be joyful and merry for we celebrate the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Given the present situation in many parts of our country, it may be difficult to feel upbeat especially that we still see on television, hear over the radio and read in the papers every day the hardships and sufferings of our fellow countrymen who were hit hard by natural calamities, the most recent being the strong earthquake in Bohol and the super typhoon Yolanda that battered the Visayas Region. We cannot close our eyes and pretend that everything is alright.

Christmas is sharing. By sharing what little resources we have to our countrymen who badly need our help, we give true meaning to our celebration of Christmas. The bright smiles that light the faces of those who suffered the most will be our gift to the Baby Jesus. I believe this is what He wants us to do – help ease the burden that they carry today. During this time of the year, let us be even more generous. To be able to share is a blessing.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year to all.



Dr. Teruo Azuma, Deputy Chief:

Facing the two terrible calamities this year- the earthquake in Bohol last October 15 and typhoon “Yolanda” last November 8, we have learned Nature’s powers again. A lot of people have been suffering from intense pain. Our study sites were damaged as well. May all of us, especially the victims, regain normal lives as early as possible. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture would only be possible when supported by Mother Nature, and never be attained unless the practices are Earth-conscious. We cannot be too modest to Nature toward our goals. This might be the biggest lesson we can learn this Christmas. Wishing you all the best this holiday season!



Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos, Head of Research Division:

We are left with a few days before Christmas and soon after we will bid good bye to 2013, which has been quite difficult for most of us, Filipinos. We have lost lives, properties and livelihoods due to earthquake and typhoons. SEAFDEC, too, lost two former Chiefs, Dean Juliano and Dr. Flores and a former training and information head, Dr. Villegas. But despite all these, if we look back, we’re still left with a lot of reasons to be thankful for 2013. Let us be thankful for everything that we have, of what we were blessed with, which gave us the opportunity to share. The spirit of sharing is very visible this year making Christmas 2013 very meaningful and memorable. May our 2013 experiences open our hearts to share more to those who need more to make our everyday a Christmas day. Merry Christmas and a more prosperous 2014 to all! God bless us all!





Dr. Evelyn Grace de Jesus-Ayson, Head of Training & Information Division:

When the orange pumpkin baskets make their appearance in stores for Halloween, our kids (and I) start getting excited about Christmas. We usually set up our Christmas tree in October, during the kids' school break. This year, we were late in putting up our tree; the kids instead first made their Christmas lists and planned what gifts to get and for whom.

Then Yolanda came. One feels like postponing Christmas. But then you realize, Christmas is here, manifested in people coming together in compassion to give material or financial help, or even giving the gifts of themselves and their time to the relief efforts.

I hope our Christmas will be merrier and brighter not because of the lights or the parties and other forms of festivities but from the love and hope we share with, and the warm smiles of appreciation from our brothers and sisters who otherwise would have a very bleak yuletide season. I wish everyone a truly blessed Christmas and New Year.



Dr. Emilia Quintio, Head of Technology Verification & Demonstration Division:

This year, we had so many blessings to thank for especially that all AQD stations and our respective homes were spared by the wrath of super typhoon Yolanda. There were only minor damages in Dumangas Brackishwater Station. During this Yuletide season, I would like to thank all those who supported the activities of the TVDD and AQD in general.

May the essence of Christmas remain always with us. Wishing you all Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2014!



Ms. Kaylin Corre, Officer-in-charge of Administration & Finance Division:

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us count our blessings and be thankful for what He has done and still will be doing for us in the coming year, 2014. Humility, wisdom, patience, prayer, faith, love, good health, and laughter are amongst His priceless blessings. May these blessings continue to shower to His people. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year everyone!



Snapshot of Christmas 2013



LIGHTING OF THE GIANT CHRISTMAS TREE & THANKSGIVING MASS



All photos by RH Ledesma

AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson led the AQD community in the lighting of the giant Christmas tree on 6 December



AQD's management: (L-R) Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos, Dr. Felix Ayson, Ms. Kaylin Corre and Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson



AQD employees sing "Pasko para sa lahat" and "Pasko na naman" during the community singing



AQD staff attend the thanksgiving mass on 13 December



AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson gives his offering during the mass

What I want for Christmas



After all the disasters that happened lately, JIRCAS and friends fervently wish for the recovery of the victims and may the spirit of Christmas still resides in everyone hearts.

JIRCAS group



We wish that all people would take part in managing the vast natural resources around them and may the animals we released back to the wild would have a positive impact to fisheries.

Stock enhancement group



I beseech for the fast recovery of the Philippines from the negative fall-outs of typhoon Yolanda. On the well-lit adjacent, I hope that my business will grow great deal.

Churchill Bejemino

Technical assistant
SEAFDEC -DOST project



Praying for the fast recovery of our country from the super typhoon and world peace!

Jenalyn Silvestre

Technical assistant
UP-DOST project



Grace, peace and mercy.

Kristine Marie Almojuela

Technical assistant
SEAFDEC-DOST project



Good health and more blessing to all of us!

Joana Joy Huervana

Technical assistant
Breeding & Seed Production Section



Celebrate Christmas with complete family members. *Mataas na akon sweldo kag maayo na akon mata.*

Peter Palma

Technical assistant
DOST-SEAFDEC project



Improvement in our government. World peace and love life at the right time.

Juliette Virgula
Technical assistant
DOST-SEAFDEC project



In these times when we are facing a lot of turmoils, I wish for us not to lose hope and faith and be strong to face all adversities. May we celebrate Christmas in its real meaning. Merry Christmas to all.

Caryl Vincent Genzola
Information assistant
Training Section



Wishing for a more mature and selfless political people leading the country.

Vicar Stella Nillasca
Technical assistant
Binangonan Freshwater Station



My wish for Christmas is for my son's happiness, comfort and safety and good health.

Sunshine Mae Salonga
Administrative assistant
Human Resource Management Section



Level up in all aspects of my life.

Mark Nell Samoranos
Technical assistant
Binangonan Freshwater Station



Security of work tenure and world peace.

Velgar Embalsado
Senior technician
Engineering Section



Wishing for a salary increase.

Ricardo Celebre
Aide
Binangonan Freshwater Station



My wish is for my children to finish their studies and to have a stable job after graduation.

Igmedio Quijano
Assistant aircon technician
Engineering Section



Wishing for regularization before our retirement.

Bienvenido Banaag and Federico Reyes
Technicians
Binangonan Freshwater Station



I hope that there will be a continuous improvement in our station this coming year. I also wish that our Station Head will have a good health. In addition, I hope that there will be peace in all the employees of the station. Lastly, I wish that my children will be successful and good health for my family.

Jose Ramel Morales
Technician
Igang Marine Station



A world free of natural and man-made disasters, safety of the people, and a new house for my family.

May-Ann Balagasay
Administrative assistant
Human Resource Management Section



I hope that this coming year I will still have a job until my two children finish their studies. I also wish that God will give my family good health always. Lastly, I pray that my wife will recover soon from her illness.

Lucas Lopez Jr.
Technician
Igang Marine Station



For the coming Year of the Green Horse. I wished that my family will have a good health, secure and bountiful life, endless wisdom to endow and harmonious people to be working with.

Patricia Casiano
Administrative assistant
Human Resource Management Section



For everyone to feel, experience and share the true meaning of Christmas not just this season but everyday throughout the year. From my family to yours, a blessed season of love and hope to everyone!

Richelle Bautista
Information assistant
Training Section



Peace, more love and stronger faith to all the Filipino people.

Engineering section staff



Good health.

Mario Roma
Driver



May the image of the baby Jesus in a manger remind all of us about the virtue of humility.

Accounting section staff



Wishing for the success, camaraderie and harmonious working relationship among employees, working hand in hand for a more productive SEAFDEC.

More blessings and more power...and Merry Christmas to all.

Juan Germia
Messenger



May this Christmas give joy, strength, happiness with good health not only for my family but to all people especially victims of typhoon Yolanda.

Dorfra Tupas
Nurse



I wish this coming year God will gave me good health always and my family, more success in life...and have a happy love life.
Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all!

Douglas Gernade
Messenger



I wish for greater love and care for one another.

Eileen Traya
Administrative officer
Materials Control Unit



I wish everybody's heart is filled with love and care this Yuletide season.

Maria Luisa Tibudan
Financial assistant
Materials Control Unit



I wish that my contract will be renewed by the management of AQD.

Nelson Tibubos
Clerk
Materials Control Unit



All the best for AQD Management and staff.

Maria Rizza Tapales
Administrative assistant
Materials Control Unit

The spirit of giving

This Christmas season, AQD did not spend much on the lavish celebration in exchange of helping the victims of super typhoon “Yolanda” (international name Haiyan) especially AQD’s project collaborators in Concepcion, Iloilo; Dumarao, Capiz; New Washington, Aklan; Malalison & Caluya, Antique and Sagay, Negros Occidental.

AQD also gave assistance to the victims of earthquake in Bohol and Cebu. A total of PhP 13, 514 was collected from the seven donation boxes distributed in different offices at AQD. This amount will be deposited to an agency that facilitates relief operation in Bohol.

AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson received cash donations from a former trainee during the FAO workshop held in Brazil. Ms. Claudia Kerber, former marine fish trainee from Sao Paolo, Brazil, gave USD 2,000. Another USD 100 was also given by Dr. Phan Thi Van, director of the Research Institute of Aquaculture in Hanoi, Vietnam. In addition, associate scientist Dr. Jon Altamirano received a total amount of PhP 17, 343 donations from the 43 participants of RIHN (Research Institute for Humanity and Nature) project meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand from 11 to 13 November. He also received additional PhP 5,000 given by some AQD staff

AQD management thanks all the people who helped in sharing the true spirit of Christmas.



The children give a special dance number during the party

All photos by JM dela Cruz



AQD shares the spirit of Christmas with the children of Concepcion through a Christmas party and gift-giving activity held 14 December



AQD staff distribute school supplies and toys to almost 300 children from Nipa Elementary School and Loong Elementary School



AQR Chief Dr. Felix Ayson and administration and finance officer-in-charge Ms. Kaylin Corre with the children after they receive their gifts



A boy opens his gift full of toys

All photos by JMI dela Cruz



Children enjoy the parlor games prepared by the AQR staff



After the parlor games AQR staff distribute snacks to the children



Concepcion Mayor Millard Villanueva gives a certificate of appreciation to AQR Chief Dr. Felix Ayson for helping the victims of typhoon in their municipality



Photo courtesy of RR Pagador
 AQD helps rehabilitate the cages of the affected tilapia fishfarmers in Dumarao by giving 13,000 tilapia fingerlings, 4 sacks of tilapia starter feeds, 4 units of 5 x 5 used B-net & hapa net, 2 rolls of new black net and hapa net on 17 December



Photo courtesy of D Fenlon
 AQD also hosted a Christmas party that bring joy to the affected members of BFARMC (Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council) in Molocoboc Island, Sagay on 10 December. Twenty-six active members receive hygiene kits and gift certificate of materials for rebuilding their homes



Photo courtesy of D Fenlon
 The children of BFARMC members present a special song number



Photo courtesy of D Fenlon
 Children enjoy playing one of the parlor games called "Trip to Jerusalem"; they also received Christmas gifts



Photo by IT Tendencia
 AQD employees pack relief goods gathered from the donation boxes for the victims of typhoon Yolanda



Photo from GMA Iloilo
 AQD staff also help in the repacking of relief goods at GMA Iloilo (local TV station) on 12 November



Photo by IT Tendencia
 The seaweeds group spearheaded by AQD researcher Ms. Ma. Rovilla Luhan went to Antique to distribute 160 relief packs to the residents of Malalison on 19 December



Photo by IT Tendencia
 The residents of Caluya, Antique likewise receive relief packs on 18 November



Photo by IT Tendencia

The residents help carry the relief goods to the seashore in Brgy. Sibato, Caluya, Antique



Photo by IT Tendencia

A group headed by research head Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos went to Ajuy and Concepcion on 15 November to give out used clothes and relief goods to the families affected by the typhoon



Residents of Ajuy receive relief goods from AQD



Photo from AQD archive

The breeding and seed production section members initiated a "Tree of Hope" project wherein AQD staff gave cash donations for the typhoon victims. As of 12 December the group has collected a total amount of PhP 17,100 that were donated to Dumarao and Malalison Island




Photo by JP Altamirano

The group of AQD associate scientist Dr. Jon Altamirano went to Aklan on 20 November to help the typhoon victims in Brgy. Pinamukan, New Washington, the site of their RIHN-funded project on shrimp stock enhancement



Photo by JP Altamirano

Almost 200 families receive used clothes & grocery packs as well as tents and ropes for their temporary shelter



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