



AQDMatters

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

AQD welcomes new SEAFDEC Secretary General

The new SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Kom Silapajarn visited SEAFDEC/AQD last 25-26 February to familiarize himself with the department programs, facilities, and personnel.

Dr. Silapajarn replaced Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri who completed his six-year term as SEAFDEC Secretary-General last September 30. Prior to his nomination, Dr. Silapajarn served as Director of the Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Division, Department of Fisheries (DOF) Thailand. Travelling with Dr. Silapajarn was Ms. Nualanong Tongdee, Information Program Coordinator of SEAFDEC.

SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson toured Dr. Silapajarn and Ms. Tongdee around the Dumangas Brackishwater Station, the Igang Marine Station, and the Tigbauan Main Station and introduced them to the study leaders and heads of various offices.

“It has been 33 years since the last time I came here in AQD. I was here in 1983 to attend a training course on brackishwater pond culture,” said Dr. Silapajarn during his speech to SEAFDEC/AQD staff. He expressed his gratitude to SEAFDEC/AQD for all the help and support when he was still a young researcher.

Dr. Silapajarn shared that he was impressed with the facilities that SEAFDEC/AQD has especially the Igang Marine Station. “IMS is the most beautiful research station I have ever seen,” he said.

Dr. Silapajarn also appreciated the efforts of SEAFDEC/AQD in organizing the Regional Technical Consultation on EMS/AHPND last 22-24 February. He said that it is important to address the issues concerning aquatic animal health management especially since it affects all SEAFDEC member countries.



(L-R) SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson, SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Kom Silapajarn, and Deputy Chief Dr. Takuro Shibuno

Moreover, Dr. Silapajarn reminded everyone about the 50th anniversary celebration of SEAFDEC next year and said he is looking forward to the involvement of SEAFDEC/AQD in the occasion.

In response, Dr. Ayson revealed that as part of SEAFDEC’s anniversary, SEAFDEC/AQD is planning to come up with a directory of training alumni in 2017. He explained that this book will show the contribution of SEAFDEC/AQD in the aspect of human resources capability development for aquaculture.

Dr. Ayson also looks forward to have Dr. Silapajarn in SEAFDEC/AQD’s activities in the future. “For sure this will not be the last time we will see Dr. Kom. I hope he will be able to come back here this July for AQD’s anniversary celebration,” he added.

👉 - GK FAIGANI



AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson explains his study on giant groupers at Igang Marine Station



Senior Technical Assistant Mr. Nestor Bayona shows the abalone broodstock



AQD staff with SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Kom Silapajarn

RTC on EMS and other Transboundary Diseases



Participants in the ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on EMS/AHPND and other Transboundary Diseases for Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management in Southeast Asia

Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) or known as Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND) and other Transboundary Diseases” was the topic of the ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation that SEAFDEC/AQD and Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) organized from 22 to 24 February in Makati City, Philippines.

The regional consultation was funded by the Government of Japan through the ASEAN Secretariat (Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund). The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of the status of EMS/AHPND and other transboundary diseases

affecting shrimps in Southeast Asia. It also aimed to define research and policy directions to improve aquatic animal health and ensure sustainability of aquaculture operations.

It was attended by over 60 delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC member countries, regional and international organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization, Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific, and Office International des Epizooties) and private sector.

During the opening ceremony, SEAFDEC Secretary General Dr. Kom Silapajarn stressed the need for effective surveillance measures to alert the countries of any disease occurrence. He added that an existing ASEAN

mechanism which could be utilized for this purpose is the ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres, based in Thailand.

The technical session began with a review on the status of EMS/AHPND and other emerging diseases in farmed shrimps in ASEAN Member States and Japan. The highlight of the meeting was a workshop where participants, in a plenary session, identified priority research areas for collaboration and formulated interventions and recommendations to address the important issues that were raised during the earlier technical sessions.

The important interventions and recommendations emphasized

by the participants during the discussions included effective border control, biosecurity capacity of countries to prevent entry of pathogen, compliance with good aquaculture practices, emergency preparedness, contingency planning, and sharing of information and experiences among countries affected and not affected by the disease.

The consultation ended with a renewed commitment of the ASEAN Member States, regional and international organizations and other partners in the region to enhance collaborative efforts and strengthen partnerships in addressing issues on aquatic animal health, particularly on present and emerging transboundary diseases. 🙌

- BACOSTA



(L-R) SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson, Embassy of Japan First Secretary (Agriculture) Mr. Kenji Terada, SEAFDEC Secretary General Dr. Kom Silapajarn and DA Undersecretary and BFAR Director Atty. Asis Perez



The participants visit a shrimp farm in Calatagan, Batangas owned by Atty. Jake Vergara



AQD joins Eel survey in Indonesia and Myanmar

SEAFDEC/AQD participated in surveys of eel fisheries and farming practices in Indonesia and Myanmar which were organized by the SEAFDEC Inland Fisheries Resources Development and Management Department (SEAFDEC/IFRDMD) last 18-21 January and 6-10 February, respectively.

These activities are in relation to the project on the “Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia” which SEAFDEC/IFRDMD is implementing with funding from the Government of Japan Trust Fund. IFRDMD has conducted earlier surveys in the Philippines and in Indonesia. A similar survey is also being planned for coastal areas of Thailand and Myanmar facing the Andaman Sea.

The SEAFDEC Program Committee has recommended that a survey of the status of tropical eel resources in the region be undertaken as a requisite for the formulation



The survey team at the Annawha Taipyi Fishery Co. Ltd. Eel farm. (L-R) Dr. Kyaw Kyaw (DoF, Myanmar), Mr. Khin Maung Htun (Mandalay District Fisheries Officer), Mr. U Min Myint (Owner of eel farm and trading center), Dr. Satoshi Honda (Deputy Chief, IFRDMD), Dr. Taweekiet Amornpiyakrit (Senior Policy and Program Officer, SEAFDEC/Secretariat), Ms. Ni Komang Suryati (IFRDMD), Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson (AQD) and Mr. Freddy Supriyadi (IFRDMD)

of strategies and plans for sustainable management and utilization of such resources. Results of the surveys will be presented in a workshop that will be organized by IFRDMD in April. A review of other R&D initiatives on eels will also be included in the workshop.

The Indonesia survey team included Dr. Budi Iskandar Prisantoso (Chief), Dr. Satoshi Honda (Deputy Chief), Dr. Dina Muthmainnah and Ms. Ni Komang Suryati of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD; and

Dr. Takuro Shibuno (Deputy Chief), Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson and Dr. Mae Catacutan of SEAFDEC/AQD.

For the Myanmar survey, the team was composed of Dr. Satoshi Honda (Deputy Chief), Ms. Ni Komang Suryati and Mr. Freddy Supriyadi of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD; Dr. Taweekiet Amornpiyakrit (Senior Policy and Program Officer) of SEAFDEC/Secretariat and Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson of SEAFDEC/AQD. 🐟 - EG AYSON

AQD, PKNU establish Internship Program Agreement

SEAFDEC/AQD and Pukyong National University’s Agency of Global Development and Cooperation for Fisheries (Global DCF) in Korea, represented by SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson and Global DCF Director Dr. Sang-go Lee, respectively, signed an agreement to promote international understanding and to enhance education and professional opportunities for students last 12 January at SEAFDEC/AQD’s Manila Office in Quezon City.

The agreement states that SEAFDEC/AQD will seek to provide on-the-job training to the interns selected by Global DCF in light of the correspondent duties,



Global DCF Director Dr. Sang-go Lee and AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson during the agreement signing

according to their specific academic curriculum and qualifications. Global DCF sent four interns Mr. Giwoong Lee, Ms. Seon Have Lee, Ms. Young Ju Lee and Ms. Yejin Kim to SEAFDEC/AQD. They

were assigned, in rotation, to SEAFDEC/AQD’s Big Hatchery, Mud Crab Hatchery, Marine Fish Hatchery, Central Analytical Laboratory and Phycology Laboratory from 4 January to 12 February. 🐟 - JM DELACRUZ

GOJ-TF new cycle commences successfully

“I would like to express my appreciation to all the efforts made by SEAFDEC/AQD researchers,” SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Hajime Kawamura said during the 2015 Annual Progress Meeting of the Programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Consultative Group Mechanism Funded by the Government of Japan-Trust (GOJ-TF) held 29 January at SEAFDEC/AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station. “I think the sixth cycle of GOJ-TF has kicked off very well so please proceed to move forward,” he added.

The meeting reviewed the projects implemented in 2015 and discussed the proposed research activities for the period 2015-2019. The external evaluators were Dr. Koh-ichiro Mori of the National Research Institute of Aquaculture, Fisheries Research Agency of Japan, Dr. Zubaida Basiao of the University of the Philippines Diliman and Dr. Carlos Baylon of the University of the Philippines Visayas.

The evaluators collectively noted the important role of the fish farmers and the local government unit for the continuity of the project. They emphasized the need



Evaluators of GOJ-TF studies include (L-R) Dr. Koh-ichiro Mori of the National Research Institute of Aquaculture, Fisheries Research Agency; Dr. Zubaida Basiao of the University of the Philippines Diliman; Dr. Carlos Baylon of the University of the Philippines Visayas and (2nd row) SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Hajime Kawamura

for SEAFDEC/AQD to have a clear road map on how these two major players may be involved in the research activities. They also suggested that SEAFDEC/AQD should take a holistic approach in the conduct of its training courses to have more impact on the community.

The presentations in the meeting comprised 12 activities which focused on the two new programs funded by GOJ-TF: (1) reinforcement & optimization of fish health management & the effective dissemination in the Southeast Asian region and (2) environment-friendly, sustainable utilization & management of fisheries & aquaculture resources.

“We will always be thankful for the support that the Japanese government is giving to SEAFDEC/AQD,” said AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson. He also added that SEAFDEC/AQD was able to continue the capacity building of the people working in the aquaculture sector and extend on-site trainings to member countries through the help of the trust fund.

Dr. Takuro Shibuno, SEAFDEC/AQD Trust Fund Manager and Deputy Chief, expressed his gratitude to all SEAFDEC/AQD staff who supported the GOJ-TF programs. He also acknowledged the evaluators for giving valuable comments on the GOJ-TF activities. 🐟
- GK FAIGANI



AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson (top) welcomes the participants of the meeting and Deputy Chief and trust fund manager for AQD projects Dr. Takuro Shibuno (above) leads the meeting



Participants of the 2015 Annual Progress Meeting of the GOJ-TF Program

AQD joins 1st National Bangus Congress

Over 1500 participants from different parts of the Philippines gathered to attend the *National Fisheries Industry Summit* and *1st Bangus Congress* organized by Philippine Milkfish Industry Group Inc. (PHILMIG) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay City from 3 to 5 February.

SEAFDEC/AQD Associate Scientist Dr. Nerissa Salayo and Scientist Dr. Relicardo Coloso presented their research on “Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture” and “Milkfish Nutrition Management”, respectively. SEAFDEC/AQD also made its information and technologies available to the participants in a trade exhibition that happened simultaneously with the congress.

The three-day congress started with the National Fisheries Industry Summit



Hon. Hernan Biron, Sr. Mayor of Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo and wife Dr. Diana Biron visit AQD booth

where the Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan for 2016 to 2020 was presented to the stakeholders. Technical sessions with experts and sharing of success stories from the industry and views from third-party observers followed.

The event was spearheaded by Department of Agriculture Secretary

Proceso Alcala and BFAR National Director Atty. Asis Perez and was graced by other government officials including Senator Loren Legarda, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Climate Change and Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Food and Agriculture. 🐟 - JM DELA CRUZ

AQD conducts Fish Health Training in Myanmar

Eleven fish health officers of the Department of Fisheries-Myanmar participated in the training course on *Health Management of Bacterial and Parasitic Diseases of Freshwater Fish Species* organized by SEAFDEC/AQD with funding support from the Government of Japan Trust Fund (GOJ-TF). The training was held in Yangon, Myanmar from 18 to 21 January.

During the training, SEAFDEC/AQD resource persons Dr. Rolando Pakingking Jr. and Ms. Gregoria Pagador talked about updates on major diseases and health management of tilapia and shrimp, as well as parasitic diseases of freshwater fishes. There were also practical



(L-R) SEAFDEC/AQD researcher Ms. Gregoria Pagador shows to the participants the technique on how to detect parasites in freshwater fish and Scientist Dr. Rolando Pakingking Jr. teaches a participant the proper way of preparing culture media

sessions on detection of bacterial fish pathogens and fish necropsy for parasite identification and bacterial isolation.

This course is part of SEAFDEC/AQD’s project under the GOJ-TF program,

which aims to educate or familiarize fish health personnel on serious fish diseases confronting important aquatic species in the region, particularly those notifiable to the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). 🐟 - RH LEDESMA

Research Seminar



Ms. Claire Duncan, PhD candidate at the Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London) and University College London, presented a seminar on “Mangrove forest protection and rehabilitation for ecosystem services: carbon stocks and coastal protection” on 17 February at SEAFDEC/AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station.

Ms. Duncan mentioned that mangrove forests provide numerous essential ecosystem services such as food, timber, medicinal resources, and coastal erosion control. Her study examined mangrove rehabilitation across Panay Island. She explained that the rehabilitation in the mid-upper intertidal zone of abandoned ponds will provide greater carbon storage and coastal protection benefits in the future.

The result of the study showed that rehabilitation for high mangrove species type diversity increases the ability of rehabilitated mangroves to provide effective coastal protection. Ms. Duncan also discussed that the greatest mangrove species type diversity occurs in the mid-upper intertidal zone currently occupied by active and abandoned aquaculture ponds.

Based on the results, she recommended the reversion of abandoned ponds to effectively rehabilitate mangrove ecosystem services, and to stop greenbelt planting in ineffective low-intertidal seafront locations. Likewise, Ms. Duncan said that government agencies and local government units should integrate efforts to revert abandoned ponds back to mangroves, where mangrove biodiversity conservation may be best achieved. 🐾 - GK FAIGANI



SEAFDEC/AQD’s Dr. Roger Edward Mamaug presented his study “Growth and feed performance, digestibility and acute stress response of juvenile grouper (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*) fed diets with hydrolysate from milkfish offal” during a research seminar on 18 February at SEAFDEC/AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station.

The objective of this study was to test the efficacy of hydrolyzed milkfish offal when fed to juvenile grouper. According to Dr. Mamaug, the use of enzymatic hydrolysis can improve the nutritional quality of fish by-products. The animals were fed for 56 days with seven diets supplemented with 0 (control), 5, 15, 25% of milkfish offal (MO) and milkfish offal hydrolysate (MOH), for comparison.

As a result, inclusion of MOH (at an optimum level of 15 and 25%) in grouper diets improves feed efficiency and growth compared to MO. However, there’s no significant difference between fish fed the two diets in terms of liver morphology, acute stress response and survival. 🐾 - JM DELA CRUZ



SEAFDEC/AQD researcher Ms. Shelah Mae Buen Ursua presented her studies on “Seed production and genetic markers for stock enhancement of seahorses” on 24 February.

According to Ms. Ursua, replenishment of the diminishing wild population of seahorses has been a pressing issue in the Southeast Asian waters where wild seahorses have been heavily fished. With this issue in hand, Ms. Ursua developed techniques that can improve reproductive performance and

seed production in tiger tail seahorse *Hippocampus comes* that can improve reproductive performance of seahorses. In her study, she used single and combined diets of *Artemia*, mysid and frozen *Acetes* sp. She also tested the effect of UV-treated and chlorinated seawater as well as formalin-treated food organisms (copepods, mysids) on survival and growth of newborn seahorses. Moreover, species identification of seahorses by mtDNA and development of microsatellite DNA markers were also conducted.

Ms. Ursua explained that improved culture techniques for seed production of seahorses are a prerequisite to produce seeds for stock release program. In addition, clarification of seahorse species and population structure of wild seahorses are important considerations for resource management and conservation purposes. 🐾 - RH LEDESMA



AQD Matters

is published bimonthly by the
Development Communication Section
SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department
Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

Editor this issue: **GK Faigani**

Contributing writer-photographers:
JM dela Cruz, RH Ledesma, IT Tendencia

Editorial consultants:
RD Dianala
MJHL Ramos

Publications Review Committee
[Dr. MJHL Ramos, Dr. MLC Aralar,
Dr. RM Coloso, Dr. EGDJ Ayson,
Dr. RV Pakingking, Jr., Dr. ND Salayo,
Dr. RE Mamaug]

Circulation to friends of AQD:
SB Alayon

For contributions and feedback, kindly
email:
devcom@seafdec.org.ph