



GOLDEN. SEAFDEC officially celebrates 50 years of sustainable management and development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Southeast Asian Region [PHOTO BY RD DIANALA]

aqdmatters

November-December 2017

Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

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Researchers working to address problems in shrimp farming

As SEAFDEC/AQD's banner program "Oplan Balik Sugpo" is in the offing, Chief Dan Baliao echoed the concerns of shrimp farmers to the scientists to immediately address gaps in shrimp farming. The approaches to prevent disease – the major problem in shrimp farming – were discussed during the in-house review and planning workshop held 12-13 December 2017.

For decades, shrimp farming has become a risky business venture due to many problems besetting the industry.

The Fish Health section reported that SEAFDEC/AQD has developed technology for rapid detection of diseases in shrimp stocks. SEAFDEC/AQD is now developing a technique of culturing shrimp in a "safe season" taking into consideration factors like



Chief Dan Baliao [inset] presented AQD's plans in reviving the shrimp industry during the Oplan Balik Sugpo forum last 17 November 2017 at SMX Convention Center in Bacolod City

temperature, photoperiod and bird migration. Optimizing the use of probiotics is also being prioritized for implementation in 2018.

The shrimp broodstock development team is now into production of good quality fry. The team will demonstrate the technology of an improved scheme of broodstock selection by thorough screening in different stages from grow-out

to broodstock development. The quarantine and biosecurity measures are now being put in place and refined.

The nutrition and feed development team, on the other hand, is set to develop low-cost diets using alternative local feed ingredients that could possibly lower the cost by 40% compared to commercial feeds.



PHOTO BY RH LEDESMA

Finding an ideal diet for shrimp is a recurring concern of farmers and operators. SEAFDEC/AQD is looking to collaborate with feed millers for the large-scale production of low-cost feeds.

Despite the high production cost of shrimp farming, the promise of high profits can be tempting. The local market can command a price ranging from Php 400 to 600 per kilogram. The varied price depends on size, freshness, site, and season.

SEAFDEC/AQD vows to revive the shrimp industry in the Philippines and to make it globally-competitive in the world market. During the



SEAFDEC/AQD shrimp experts during the open forum

PHOTO BY RH LEDESMA

National Shrimp Congress held in Bacolod City recently, the strategy suggested that may work for the Philippines

is to produce white shrimp for the domestic market and tiger shrimp for the export market. Shrimps can also be

cultured along with other high-priced species like siganid or rabbitfish and mangrove crab. **a**
- ME ALDON

Climate change initiatives shared in regional workshop



Participants of FAO/APFIC Workshop on Building Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture

PHOTO COURTESY OF MLC ARALAR

BANGKOK – To address climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture the Asia-Pacific Region, the Food and Agriculture Organization's Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (FAO/APFIC) gathered a wide range of stakeholders including APFIC member countries in the region, regional organizations, partners and

experts in a Workshop on Building Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture last 14-18 November 2017.

Two SEAFDEC/AQD scientists participated in the workshop. Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson presented the Regional Overview on Efforts Addressing Climate Change Impacts in the Aquaculture Sector in the Asia-Pacific,

while Dr. Ma. Lourdes Aralar presented SEAFDEC/AQD's Programs on Climate Change.

The meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss the national plans of actions on climate change and their progress in the implementation. Through the meeting, effective strategies were shared towards addressing the gaps in building

the climate resiliency of aquaculture practices.

Technological advances and practices on the potential of fisheries and aquaculture to mitigate greenhouse gases as well as to reduce greenhouse gases emissions in aquaculture and fisheries operations were also presented. **a**

- JM DELA CRUZ

Japan continues funding of CBRE projects, to replicate project in Bicol region

Satisfied with the success of the project in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, Japan will continue funding the community-based resource enhancement project to be replicated in Bicol region next year.

The ongoing project in Molocaboc Island, Sagay City will be continued until 2019 to work on the establishment of a solar-powered abalone hatchery that will supply the seedstock requirements for stock enhancement, sea ranching or culture, and fine-tune project exit strategies, among others.

On the other hand, Japan through the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences is also funding the integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) project - an integrated

culture of milkfish, seaweeds, and sandfish - in Pandaraonan, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. The IMTA project aims to sustain the economic benefits and entrepreneurial skills of fisherfolk, including women. The project gained positive feedback from the fisherfolk.

Dr. Nerissa Salayo, the main proponent of the project said that the project will enable the fisherfolk and the women sector in fisheries to be trained to become less dependent on government support and services.

Recognizing the importance of aquaculture as a major source of food fish, SEAFDEC/AQD takes a proactive role in addressing the needs of the fisheries industry. **a**

- ME ALDON



PHOTO BY IT TENDENCIA

AQD technician harvests abalone from the community resource enhancement site at Molocaboc Island in Sagay City, Negros Occidental



Farmers harvest seaweeds from the sea

PHOTO COURTESY OF MR LUHAN

SEAFDEC/ AQD boosting the seaweed industry using tissue culture technology

SEAFDEC has developed a technology of producing seaweeds cultivars by micropropagation, a method of tissue culture.

SEAFDEC/AQD has started disseminating this technology through training and on site demonstration. Additionally, the cultivars were tested on farms in different sites in the country like Bohol, Tawi-tawi, Palawan and Guimaras. Farm trial results show remarkably high growth rates of *Kappaphycus* plantlets from

tissue culture ranging from 6-10% per day.

This technology is now ready for commercialization to enhance the seaweed industry of the country.

Seaweed farming started in the 1970s in Mindanao by simply tying seaweeds in lines and now has become a giant industry. Seaweed farming is a source of livelihood among fisherfolks in coastal barangays involving approximately 120,000 farmers (BFAR Seaweed Road Map 2016). In 2015, the revenue from seaweeds stood at USD 203.4 M, according to the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines.

Seaweed is the number one aquaculture product by volume followed by milkfish and tilapia (BAS 2016).

The bulk of our seaweed export is composed of

Kappaphycus and *Eucheuma*. These are red seaweeds which are a source of carrageenan. Carrageenan is used as a thickener, binder, stabilizer, suspending agent in food products and has biomedical and industrial applications.

The decline in the Philippine seaweed production in the last decade was mainly due to poor quality of seedlings and diseases. This could be due to continuous cutting of "seedling" since seaweed farming started. Production of fast growing "seedling" became a challenge. The Philippines

used to be the number one seaweed producer in Southeast Asia but Indonesia rapidly overtook the Philippines in terms of seaweed production in the last decade. The widespread adoption of the new technology developed by SEAFDEC/AQD, in collaboration with concerned government agencies, particularly the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, will boost the seaweed production and propel the industry back to the glory that was. **a**

- ME ALDON



Golden Jubilee

*Toward Sustainable Fisheries
Development in Southeast Asia*

SEAFDEC celebrates half a century of fisheries development



A parade of flags reminisces the 50-year history of SEAFDEC during the Golden Jubilee event.



Joselito Piñol (left) receives the tokens of appreciation for the Philippine Government's hosting of SEAFDEC/AQD from Air Chief Marshall Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.



SEAFDEC council director for the Philippines Eduardo Gongona (left) shares a light moment with SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dan Baliao at the sidelines of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council



From left: SEAFDEC/AQD chief Dan Baliao, Deputy Chief Chihaya Nakayasu, Administrative Assistant Janelli Garbay, Scientist Dr. Maria Lourdes Aralar, SEAFDEC/SEC fisheries technical officer Virgilia Sult, Philippine Government representative Joselito Piñol, former SEAFDEC/AQD chiefs Dr. Alfredo Santiago, Jr. and Dr. Rolando Platon, Manila Office OIC Anna Maria Ortiz, and Special Departmental Coordinator Rex Delsar Dianala.

SEAFDEC capped the year-long celebrations of its 50th anniversary with a Golden Jubilee program held in the Dusit Thani Bangkok, Thailand in 15 November 2017 which was attended by government officials of member countries, representatives from international fisheries and donor organizations, as well as personalities who have made significant contributions to the history of SEAFDEC.

SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dan Baliao, former Chiefs Rolando Platon and Alfredo Santiago, Jr., and Deputy Chief Chihaya Nakayasu attended the program which was graced by Air Chief Marshall Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand as guest of honor. Meanwhile, the keynote message was delivered by Dr. Deb Menasveta who was SEAFDEC Secretary-General for 1976-1981 (see page 5).

During the program, the Philippine Government was recognized for its contribution to SEAFDEC/AQD since 1973 “that prompted AQD to attain advances in aquaculture technologies leading to the sustainability of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.” Joselito Piñol, representing the Philippine Government,

received the tokens of appreciation during the anniversary program.

A parade of flags and a video presentation recalled the 50-year history of SEAFDEC. An anniversary coffee table book titled “A Half-century Journey of SEAFDEC” was also launched during the program.

Other AQD staff attending the golden jubilee program is Special Departmental Coordinator Rex Delsar Dianala, Manila Office OIC Anna Maria Ortiz, and Administrative Assistant Janelli Garibay. Scientist Dr. Maria Lourdes Aralar, who was attending a nearby FAO meeting, also attended the program.

Earlier in the day, SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines Eduardo Gongona attended the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council which adopted the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC,” including the new Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030 (see page 6). During the same meeting, Dr. Flor Lacanilao, AQD Chief for 1981-1982 and 1986-1992, was awarded as among the outstanding SEAFDEC staff (see page 5). **a**

- RD DIANALA

Lacanilao is Most Outstanding AQD Staff

BANGKOK – Cited as a visionary leader who “spurred R&D at AQD to flourish that enabled AQD scientists to achieve their full potentials,” former Chief Dr. Flor Lacanilao was given the SEAFDEC Golden Anniversary Award as Most Outstanding AQD Staff during the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 15 November 2017.

The Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, Abdul Halidi Mohd Saleh and Secretary General of SEAFDEC Dr. Kom Silapajarn presented the award which was received by current SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dan Baliao in behalf of Dr. Lacanilao.

Dr. Lacanilao served as chief on two occasions; the first from 1 January 1981 to 31 December 1982 and the second from 8 April 1986 to 7 April 1992. The award announcement said that during his two stints, he

“transformed AQD into a world-class research institution in aquaculture.”

“By instituting a merit-based incentive pay system for international peer-reviewed publications, he propelled AQD’s scientific publication output to global standards,” the announcement added.

“As a scientist, Dr. Lacanilao is known for his pioneering discoveries in fish endocrinology and for leading the AQD research group to achieve the first spontaneous breeding of milkfish in captivity, allowing the development of a viable milkfish seed production technology benefitting the aquaculture industry to date,” it said.

A SEAFDEC/AQD search committee conducted a search process earlier this year and nominated Dr. Lacanilao for the award. **a**

- RD DIANALA



Menasveta on good leadership

BANGKOK - Former SEAFDEC secretary-general Dr. Deb Menasveta, in his keynote message during the Golden Jubilee Program of SEAFDEC held in 15 November 2017, shared his take on the qualities of a good leader as SEAFDEC looks beyond its 50th year.

Citing over 60 years of observations, Dr. Menasveta shared that “Efficient organizations are usually run by able and experienced leaders and devoted and competent staff. Some organizations have more funds than the others because the managers are amicable and talk convincingly. That is, they are not only diplomatic, but very persistent and persuasive.”

“Large organizations run smoothly because the

managers have the ability to create and foster mutual respect among the workers. Successful managers also have a sense of anticipation based on their accumulated experiences to effect cost savings of the organization,” he added.

Dr. Menasveta said that “honest and able” leadership and staff is one of the core ingredients for the efficient running of the Center as SEAFDEC in the 21st century will have a much broader scope of work, covering not only technical, but also economics, social, and legal aspects.

Dr. Menasveta served his term as Secretary General from 1976-1981 and is now 88 years old. **a**

- RD DIANALA

New SEAFDEC vision, mission and strategies adopted

The SEAFDEC Council, during a special meeting on 15 November 2017 in Bangkok, adopted the new vision, missions, and strategies of SEAFDEC towards 2030 as follows:

Vision

Sustainable management and development of Fisheries and Aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian Region

Missions

To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia through:

- i. **Research and Development** in fisheries, aquaculture, post harvest, processing, and marketing of fish and fisheries products, socio-economy and ecosystem to provide reliable scientific data and information.
- ii. **Formulation and Provision of Policy Guidelines** based on the best available scientific data and information, local wisdom/knowledge, regional consultations and prevailing international measures.

- iii. **Technology Transfer and Capacity Building** to enhance the capacity of Member Countries in the application of technologies, and implementation of fisheries policies and management tools for the sustainable utilization of fishery resources and aquaculture.

- iv. **Monitoring and Evaluation** of the implementation of the regional fisheries policies and management frameworks adopted under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism, and the emerging international fisheries-related issues including their impacts on fisheries, food security and socio-economics of the region.

Strategies

- 1) Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region
- 2) Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture complementing to fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region
- 3) Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region
- 4) Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements
- 5) Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as international fisheries-related issues, labor, gender and climate change
- 6) Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries



40th SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting

BANGKOK – Member countries noted with appreciation the progress of AQD’s activities and expressed interest in more information and collaboration during the “Fortieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee” held here 28-

29 November 2017 at the Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao.

AQD chief Dan D. Baliao and Deputy Chief Dr. Chihaya Nakayasu reported on AQD’s departmental programs and regional programs, respectively, including their progress for 2017 and plans for 2018.

The SEAFDEC Program Committee serves to review, evaluate, and give advice on the activities of the Departments based on the needs of Member

Countries. Below are some highlights from the requests and suggestions given by member countries. [a](#)

- RD DIANALA



Philippines

- Strengthen collaboration between SEAFDEC and BFAR on the Government’s 5 identified potential aquaculture species: milkfish, tilapia, seaweed, shrimp and shellfishes.
- More collaboration on sustainable aquaculture technologies similar to the Environment-Friendly Schemes in Shrimp Culture which was very successful in the past.
- Include studies on Tilapia Lake Virus as an emerging disease of high interest.
- Conduct risk assessment across ASEAN member states on known shrimp diseases in aid of facilitating broodstock and other live shrimp importation for aquaculture purposes.
- Include capability-building on aquatic animal health epidemiology as a core discipline on disease management.
- Sustain technology verification of single spat oyster hatchery, nursery, and grow-out production since this approach will greatly address contamination of harmful algal blooms in farmed oysters, and since oyster farming is a low external input aquaculture, hence a pro-poor smallholder aquaculture with high economic potentials.
- Include the new global human health concern on antibiotic microbial resistance
- Support DA-BFAR to upscale its Climate Resilient Aquaculture Operations farmer-experts workshop to document science-based operational adjustments being implemented by aquafarmers in the Philippines to mitigate impacts of adverse weather and climatic events.



Indonesia

Map the status of the aquaculture development of dominant species in the region to facilitate monitoring of research activities. The matrix of activities may cover broodstock management, breeding, food and nutrition, diseases, environment and should indicate problems, gaps and proposed activities to address the gaps.



Malaysia

Provide opportunities for Malaysian researchers to join the research activities of AQD on the breeding and seed production of aquaculture species.



Singapore

Share technologies developed, particularly on the culture of high-value species.



Thailand

There is a need for capacity-building on freshwater aquaculture which is very important for livelihood and food security in the rural areas. Thailand is willing to share aquaculture technologies it has developed for several freshwater species.

The 40th SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting held in Bangkok. Inset from left: AQD chief Dan Baliao and Deputy Chief Dr. Chihaya Nakayasu present the progress of AQD’s programs. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEAFDEC/SEC



20th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group

BANGKOK – The progress of AQD's establishment of the Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response System (AEPRS) and Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture were presented during the "Twentieth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) held 30 November to 1 December, back to back with the Program Committee Meeting (PCM).

AQD chief Dan Baliao reported that a Regional Technical Consultation on the

AEPRS is scheduled in 2018 while the Regional Database on Alternative Feed Ingredients is already in the works with a prototype website hosting initial data.

The output of the PCM were also presented during the meeting and AQD projects received further requests as shown below.

The FCG/ASSP is a collaborative mechanism between SEAFDEC and ASEAN to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of fishery programs in Southeast Asia. [a](#)
- RD DIANALA



Myanmar

Share to member countries the technologies on high-value species developed under the program "Environment-friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources."



Philippines

Give attention on the sustainability of production from aquaculture, especially in terms of restoring the environmental quality of aquaculture areas for both the short and long-term. Develop management strategies to restore once productive aquaculture areas.



The 20th meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership. PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY OF SEAFDEC/SEC AND RD DIANALA

New AQD thrusts presented at Department Chiefs' Meeting

BANGKOK – AQD chief Dan Baliao gave a summary of the Department's thrusts under his management during the Department Chiefs' Meeting held 2 December, back-to-back with the Program Committee and Fisheries Consultative Group meetings.

Baliao revealed that AQD will continue to push for the mitigation of diseases of commercially viable species through intervention, use of probiotics, vaccines, and immunostimulants.

Additionally, AQD will further find means to enhance biosecurity for hatchery and grow-out operations of commercially viable species.

Formulation and production of low-cost feed and practical diets for marginal fish farmers will also be done according to Baliao.

In collaboration with government agencies and SEAFDEC member countries, Baliao also intends to implement an enhanced techno-transfer program of mature technologies for food

security and poverty alleviation.

Along this line, Baliao also informed the Meeting that AQD will propose to change the title of its "Technology Verification & Demonstration Division" to "Technology Verification & Commercialization Division."

Lastly, Baliao said the AQD will intensify the publication of aquaculture extension manuals to cater to the needs of the industry.

The meeting, organized to discuss issues important for the future operation of SEAFDEC and agree on follow-up actions to be undertaken, was attended by other Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs from other Departments, as well as the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary General and other SEAFDEC officials. [a](#)

- RD DIANALA



Attendees of the SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting.

SEAFDEC/AQD participates in NEDA Project Consultation



PHOTO COURTESY OF ND SALAYO

Participants pose for a photo during the National Consultation on Governance Framework for the Agribusiness Sub-sector towards rapid, inclusive and sustainable growth for the Philippines

SEAFDEC/AQD scientist Dr. Nerissa Salayo emphasized the importance of consulting and involving the science community, including the department, in improving governance and performance of the agribusiness sectors at the National Consultation on Governance Framework for

the Agribusiness Sub-sector towards Rapid, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth for the Philippines organized by Nexus Agribusiness Solutions on 9 November 2017 in Pasig City.

The workshop led by study-proponents Dr. Nerlita Manalili and Dr. Larry Digal reported the preliminary results of a

NEDA-funded project on evaluation of governance strategies for improving efficiency, performance and competitiveness of agribusiness sectors. For the fisheries sub-sector, the group discussion proposed improving access of local fisheries and aquaculture business through a strong

national policy in view of hindrances posed by local governance issues; enhancing efficiency of government procurement processes to enable efficiency of fishery institutions; and involving science in policy and decision-making.

The Governor of BOI also requested fishery and aquaculture project concept proposals for the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

Dr. Salayo noted that AQD currently prioritizes the revival of the shrimp industry and there is potential for Lanao Lake which used to be a major shrimp culture site. For immediate local food and livelihood needs, tilapia, milkfish and crab culture can be re-assessed and recommended in suitable sites after actual assessment. [a](#)

- ND SALAYO

Indian Nationals learn algal culture at SEAFDEC/AQD

Algae or live food organisms play a crucial role in all aquaculture systems. Hatchery operators both in the Philippines and neighboring countries could not get a continuous supply of live food organisms from the natural environment hence, the need for algal culture.

According to former SEAFDEC/AQD researcher and live food expert Ms. Milagros de la Peña, the department had been developing and perfecting the

technology for many years and now expects hatcheries to apply the principles and replicate the system.

“We learned great knowledge [from SEAFDEC/AQD] and we will indeed apply all of these [knowledge] in our hatcheries back home,” said Mr. Soma Sekhara Satya Prasad Dodda, technical manager and trainee, on his experience on SEAFDEC/AQD’s Algal Culture and Isolation course held at Tigbauan Main Station last 4 to 11 December 2017. Together with Mr. Dodda are laboratory technician Mr. Vinoth Selvaraj and technician Mr. Prashanth Pichila Ranguntha Reddy – all from BMR Industries from Tamilnadu, India.

PHOTO BY TRAINING SECTION



Trainees Mr. Reddy, Mr. Dodda and Mr. Selvaraj during one of the laboratory activities for the training course

The week-long course includes lectures and hands-on activities including media preparation for isolation and maintenance of pure isolates, up-scaling and mass culture, counting techniques, sampling, monitoring and application in aquaculture.

SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Mr. Dan Baliao expressed his gratitude in the trust given by the trainees to SEAFDEC/AQD and their willingness to support the efforts of fostering aquaculture. [a](#)

- JM DE LA CRUZ

DevCom vital in research and development

To know how Development Communication is used in the context of aquaculture research, the Association of Development Communication Educators and Practitioners Philippines, Inc. (ADCEP) visited SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department's Tigbauan Main Station on 30 November 2017 during their three-day national conference on the "Trajectories of Development Communication" in Iloilo City.

SEAFDEC/AQD, being one of the few institutions with a Development Communication (DevCom) Section, highlighted the role of Devcom in research and development. The main function of the section is science communication which refers to presenting science-related topics to non-experts, basically popularizing research. Information dissemination and promotion of sustainable aquaculture practices is one of the three-part mandate of SEAFDEC/AQD. Since 1973, SEAFDEC/AQD has produced a wide range of publications such as aquaculture extension manuals, instructional and promotional brochures and textbooks on various fisheries topics.

Gaps between communication and research were identified during the discussion such as the translation of publications to local languages and building tight linkages with government organizations to expand the reach of extension. Assessing the impact of publications was also determined to be necessary.

"We are very happy that the need for a Development



Fifty ADCEP members watch SEAFDEC/AQD's presentation on the role of DevCom in research and development

Communication Section is being recognized by SEAFDEC/AQD. We still have a long way to go but this is a start," said Dr. Ricky Becodo, ADCEP Vice President for Visayas and West Visayas State University professor, at the end of the discussion.

The ADCEP National Conference was held at West Visayas State University last 30 November until 3 December 2017. [a](#)

- JM DE LA CRUZ



Development Communication educators and practitioners explore FishWorld, a museum-aquarium at SEAFDEC/AQD

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADCEP



aqd matters

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Editor this issue:
JM de la Cruz

Contributing writer-photographers:
EV Aldon, RD Dianala,
RH Ledesma, IT Tendencia

Editorial consultants:
RD Dianala, EC Amar

Publications Review Committee 2016
Dr. MJHL Ramos, Dr. MLC Aralar,
Dr. EGDJ Ayson, Dr. RV Pakingking, Jr.,
Dr. ND Salayo, Dr. RE Mamauag

Publications Review Committee 2018
Dr. LD dela Peña, Dr. JP Altamirano,
Dr. EC Amar, Ms. JJ Huervana,
Dr. RE Mamauag, Dr. ND Salayo,
Dr. EA Tendencia

Circulation to friends of AQD:
Mr. SB Alayon

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



RD Head Dr. Leobert dela Peña, TID Head Dr. Edgar Amar, AFD Head Ms. Amelita Subosa and Chief Mr. Dan Balião officially light AQD's Christmas Tree for 2017.

CHRISTMAS

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With the theme "Christmas: A season of hope, a reason to celebrate," the SEAFDEC/AQD family enjoyed a week-long celebration with various activities fit for the festive season.

As part of the Department's tradition, the Christmas celebration was kicked-off by a Lantern Parade and Christmas Tree Lightning Ceremony (see photos).

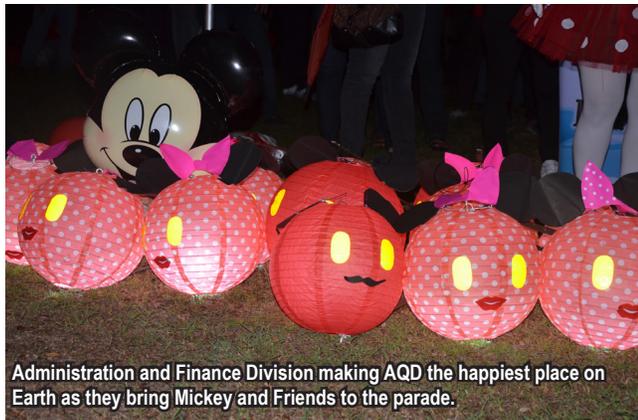
Lantern Parade & Christmas Tree Lighting



Research Division team displays Polynesian torches and characters from the film Moana.



Training and Information Division, Technology Verification and Demonstration Division, and Management Group bring the wonderland experience to the parade with Alice and Wonderland-inspired lanterns.



Administration and Finance Division making AQD the happiest place on Earth as they bring Mickey and Friends to the parade.

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY DEV/COM SECTION



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY DEVCOM SECTION



Chief Mr. Dan Baliao and AFD Head Ms. Amelita Subosa giving their Christmas message to AQD staff.





Thanksgiving Mass

The birth of our savior is the main reason for celebrating Christmas. To thank Him for the blessings, AQD celebrated a mass last 15 December 2017 at AQD's Multi-Purpose Hall.



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY DEVCOM SECTION

Gift-giving to Children

As part of the annual tradition, SEAFDEC/AQD gave gifts to the young children of the nearby communities.



The Chief with the division, section and unit heads



Chief Mr. Dan Baliao, AFD Head Ms. Amelita Subosa, TID Head Dr. Edgar Amar, and RD Head Dr. Leobert dela Peña

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY DEVCOM SECTION



Ms. Jonalyn Mateo bagged Best Actress for her performance in "Hopia".



Ms. Yvonne Salvilla won Best Supporting Actress for her performance in "Kalig-onan".



TID/TVDD/MG's "Kalig-onan" directors Mr. Stephen Alayon and Mr. Edgar Vincent Antolino won Best Director

AQD Star Awards

The SEAFDEC/AQD family celebrated Christmas with food, music, friends, glitz and glamour. Dubbed as the most dazzling night of the year, AQD Star Awards gave the opportunity for the employees to dress-to-the-nines.



AFD's entry "#Hope: Ang Awit ng Buhay" won Best Poster



Chief Mr. Dan Baliao delivers his message for the AQD staff

Contest Results

| COMPETITION | WINNERS |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Best Team Leader | TID / TVDD / MG |
| Hand-Held Lantern | RD |
| Best Team | TID / TVDD / MG |
| Best Actor | RD |
| Best Supporting Actor | TID / TVDD / MG |
| Best Director | TID / TVDD / MG |
| Best Poster | AFD |
| Best Picture | RD |
| Over-all Champion | TID / TVDD / MG |



RD's "Hopia" won Best Picture



FASHIONISTAS OF THE NIGHT. Belle of the Night Miss Quenie Montinola, Beau of the Night Mr. Daryl Superio, Best-Dressed Ms. Chaya Mae Lavilla, and Couple of the Night Ms. Nichole Yap and Mr. Edgar Vincent Antolino



OVER-ALL CHAMPS. TID/TVDD/MG family receives award as 2017 Christmas Celebration over-all champion