

AQUA Dept NEWS

Internal Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department

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SEAFDEC holds 35th Council and 5th ASEAN FCG meetings



Top AQD officials attended the 35th SEAFDEC Council Meeting and 5th ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Group Meeting on March 10 to 14 at the Dusit Nikko Hotel, Makati, Manila.

The AQD delegates headed by Chief Dr. Rolando Platon were composed of RD Head Clarissa Marte, TID Head Pastor Torres, Jr., FAD Head Dan Baliao, and TVCD Head

Fred Yap. Virgilia Sulit acted as Technical Secretary.

Other participants included the Chiefs of the SEAFDEC Centers from Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia, as well as the Director-Generals, Council Directors from the SEAFDEC member countries, and observers from other regional and international organizations. There were approximately 50 delegates in the meeting.

The meeting discussed current issues on fisheries specifically those concerning the operation and management of SEAFDEC and its Departments. Other topics discussed were financial matters and SEAFDEC relations with non-mem-

ber governments and international organizations.

The Council Meeting is held annually and hosted on rotation basis by each member country, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The Philippines was unanimously chosen as host to the 5th ASEAN FCG and 35th SEAFDEC Council Meetings during the 34th SEAFDEC Council Meeting held in Cambodia sometime in April 2002.

AQD and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) provided the Secretariat.

AQD wins award in agri-food fair



Visitors check out the books and manuals sold in the AQD booth

AQD won the 3rd best booth award in the recently concluded Agri-Food Biotech Fair 2003 held at the PNB

Multi-Purpose Hall, Iloilo City from March 4-8.

The Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council Western Visayas Foundation, Inc (RAFCWVFI) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC 6) hosted the yearly affair.

The exhibit has the theme "Agri-Fishery Biotechnology: Opportunities and Challenges for Western Visayas" and it has the following

objectives: (1) To create awareness and generate public support on the concept of biotechnology as a tool for agri-fisheries modernization not only in Region 6, but in the whole country; (2) To address the public's misunderstanding about biotechnology through the different activities held everyday by various agricultural sectors; (3) To showcase the region's various opportunities and prospects through the advances in the application of biotechnology; and (4) To encourage local entrepreneurs and producers in addressing the needs of the market. *to page 2*



The fair showcased an array of agricultural and fishery products (fresh and processed) that utilized biotechnology. It also exhibited priority commodities (with market prospects and information), technology updates, equipment and machinery (for production and processing), and services through product display/presentation.

The region's various opportunities and prospects through advances in the application of biotechnology were also showcased in such commodities as hybrid rice, Bt corn, live-stock (swine), and the genetically enhanced tilapia, among others.

Participants in the event were major industry players, government agencies, private institutions/firms, academe, local government units, farmers' organizations/cooperatives, businessmen/entrepreneurs, and other investors.

The AQD booth featured posters on the latest breakthroughs in aquaculture biotechnology (genetics and endocrinology, feed development technology, microbiology, and algal production technology). Other items displayed in the booth included the following: (1) posters on various aquaculture species; (2) newsletters; (3) brochures; (4) books and manuals (for sale); (5) information kiosk – computer generated profiles of various AQD Research and Development activities and commodities;

and (6) diorama of a closed-recirculating shrimp farming system. Seaweed products were also sold in the booth (courtesy of Parara Norte Small Fishermen Association which was technically assisted by AQD in their Seaweed Culture Project).

Want to know what happened during the fair? Read on.

Day 1 (March 4)

The affair was opened with an info-caravan and registration of guests, visitors, and participants. It was followed by a mass and blessing of booths and ceremonial cutting of ribbon to officially open the exhibit. An opening ceremony was held.

A press conference was given in the afternoon followed by a lecture on "Modern Biotechnology: Applications and Issues." Consequently, Fr. Meliton Oso presented the Church's view on biotechnology. An open forum followed. DA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning also presented the "Current Government's Preparations on WTO and its Implications to Agriculture-Implementation of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF)."

Day 2- March 5

Day 2 was Fisheries Day. Highlights of activities included a lecture-demo on cooking and value-adding of fishery products conducted by BFAR 6 and lectures on nutrition and breeding of GET tilapia. Tilapia fry and aquarium fishes were distributed afterwards.

Day 3- March 6

The livestock group hosted day three. A film showing on rabies was held in the morning followed by a free rabies vaccination. A lecture and an actual demo on artificial insemination of goat/sheep were also

conducted. Other topics discussed were: Multiple ovulation and embryo transfer (cattle/carabao) and Biotech in Animal Health Care. An open forum followed each presentation.

Day 4- March 7

Day 4 was crops day. Highlights of activities included lectures on Biotechnology on Vegetables and Updates on Hybrid Rice. Product demos were conducted for "APSA" 80 Nutriplant "SD" and "AG", Queen Grill Drip Irrigation Technology, Power Plus Sprayer, and floral arrangement. A film showing was also held. Door prices were given in the afternoon.

Day 5- March 8

On the last day of the exhibit, three lectures were given in the morning, namely: (1) Organic Farming System; (2) Credit/Financing Scheme for Agriculture Sector by LBP; and (3) Credit/Financing Scheme by QUEDANCOR.

In the afternoon, awards were given for the best and most informative and attractive booth. AQD won as the 3rd best booth. A closing program officially closed the event.

The affair was a success as it was participated by a great number of guests and private individuals interested to venture into agri-business. While only a modest amount of P3,155 was realized in the sale of books and manuals, AQD nevertheless was able to convey the message that it is at the forefront in the field of biotechnology in aquaculture.

Eric Gasataya and Shariff Wee manned the booth for the duration of the event.

*"A mind that has been stretched will never return to its original dimension."
- Albert Einstein*

You are invited!



SEAFDEC AQD presents

Business opportunities in aquaculture

On the occasion of its 30th Anniversary, the South-east Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Aquaculture Department will present a road show seminar on all commercially viable technologies it has developed. SEAFDEC specialists will discuss breeding and grow-out technologies of important aquaculture species that are mature for commercialization. An indicative investment analysis will cap each presentation.

Highlights

Species – shrimp, milkfish, mud crab, grouper, snapper, seabass, rabbitfish, tilapia, carp, catfish, seaweed, abalone, and seahorse

Culture systems – ponds, tanks, cages, pens, floating structures, and other systems

Dialogue with experts

Investment prospects

Business contacts

Date: July 7-8, 2003

Time: 0800H to 1700H for two days

Venue: Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center, Iloilo City

Fee: PhP1,800 for two days (includes lunch, snacks, seminar kit)

Early registration: PhP1,600 if paid on or before 16 June 2003

Reservation:

Secretariat (Tel: +33 5119172, Fax: +33 5118709, Email: training@aq.seafdec.org.ph)

Humor

Life explained...

On the first day God created the cow. God said, "You must go to field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. Let me have twenty years and I'll give back the other forty."

And God agreed.

On the second day, God created the dog. God said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's too long to be barking. Give me ten years and I'll give back the other ten."

So God agreed (sigh).

On the third day God created the monkey. God said, "Entertain people, do monkey tricks, make them laugh. I'll give you a twenty year life span."

Monkey said, "How boring, monkey tricks for twenty years? Dog gave you back ten, so that's what I'll do too, okay?"

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day God created man. God said, "Eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy. Do nothing, just enjoy, enjoy. I'll give you twenty years."

Man said, "What? Only twenty years? Tell you what, I'll take my twenty, and the forty cow gave back, and the ten dog gave back and the ten monkey gave back. That makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God. "You've got a deal."

So that is why for the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy, and do nothing; for the next forty years we slave in the sun to

Vietnamese version now available!

The 94-page fully illustrated, full color book titled "**Husbandry and Health Management of Grouper**," is now available in Vietnamese. Anyone interested in the book may contact:

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AQD to hold lecture on environment-friendly shrimp culture



A pond employing the environment-friendly shrimp culture system

The Technology Verification Section (TVS) of AQD will be lecturing on Environment-Friendly Intensive Shrimp Culture to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Extension Officers (EOs) on March 26-27 at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Station (FFRS), Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna.

This was in response to a letter dated February 27 by BFAR Region

support our family; for the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain our grandchildren; and for the last ten years we sit in front of the house and bark at everybody.

4 Director Rosa Macas to AQD Chief Dr. Rolando Platon requesting for TVS assistant Isaac Abello to lecture during a Joint Summit for Extension Officers of Regions 4-A and 4-B.

The activity aims to provide EOs under the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA)—Fisheries

Program with adequate technical know-how on current and emerging aquaculture technologies. It also hopes to serve as venue in coming up with recommendatory policies/measures on issues, constraints, and problems confronting the EOs in the field.

There are 100 expected participants to attend the affair.

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