

AQUA Dept NEWS

Internal Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department

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SEAFDEC holds Council Meeting

The 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council of Directors was held in Manila from March 11 to 14.

Upon Thailand's nomination, the Council confirmed the appointment of Mr. Ruangpanit as the new Secretary-General of SEAFDEC and concurrently Chief of the Training Department, effective March this year.

The election of the SEAFDEC Council's Chairman was held; Mr. Cesar Drilon, Jr. was elected Chairman. Drilon is the Council Director for the Philippines and Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture. The outgoing Chairman was Mr. Than Tun, Council Director for Myanmar.

The Council acknowledged Lao PDR as a new member
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Secretary-General Mr. Niwes Ruangpanit (above left); Council Chairman Cesar Drilon, Jr. (above); and Council Director Mr. Singkham Phonvisay (right) and Alternate Council Director for Lao PDR Mr. Mahanakhone Souriya (left).

ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG meets

The fifth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) was held in Manila on March 10. The matters discussed included the proposed

cooperation among Japan, ASEAN, and SEAFDEC; the proposal to appoint SEAFDEC as the executing agency of ASEAN on fishery matters; and projects under FCG collaborative mechanism.

The Chairman of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC senior officials meeting, Mr. Boey Chee Cheong, re-

ported on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC senior officials meeting on the sustainability of SEAFDEC held from February 13 to 14 in Bangkok, Thailand. He elucidated on the need for a closer cooperation among Japan, ASEAN, and SEAFDEC, and the proposal to appoint

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SEAFDEC as the executing agency of ASEAN on fishery matters.

After due deliberation, the Meeting was unanimous on the need to enhance the closer cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC in the fisheries sector. As a concrete step, the Meeting requested experts from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Secretariats to formulate appropriate mechanism and procedure for such cooperation.

The Meeting decided to submit its recommendations to the 35th meeting of SEAFDEC Council from March 11 to 14, and to the 11th meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi), sometime in April or May, for further consideration.

The Meeting also discussed the current and proposed

projects under the FCG collaborative mechanism. For its part, AQD presented the progress and proposed plan of activities of existing projects, namely: (1) promotion of mangrove-friendly aquaculture in Southeast Asia; (2) development of fish disease inspection methodologies for artificially bred seeds; and (3) special five-year program on sustainable fisheries for food security in the ASEAN region – component II: aquaculture. AQD also presented a proposal on the *Establishment of disease surveillance system of aquatic animals* under FCG collaborative mechanism. After the deliberation, the Meeting agreed to include AQD's proposal under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG collaborative mechanism.

The Meeting requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to submit the FCG report to the 35th meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and to the 11th meeting of ASWGFi for

subsequent consideration and endorsement. The SEAFDEC Council adopted the FCG report on March 11.

Representatives from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC member-countries, their Secretariats and Departments attended the meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by the SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Junichiro Okamoto and the Chairman of the ASWGFi, Mr. Nao Thuok.



SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Junichiro Okamoto (center), and the Chairman of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi), Mr. Nao Thuok (left)

country and accepted Mr. Singkham Phonvisay and Mr. Mahanakhone Souriya as its the Council Director and Alternate Council Director, respectively.

The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam together with their respective delegations. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials also attended the Meeting.

Observers from Fisheries and

Agriculture Organization/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA), and the WorldFish Center (formerly ICLARM) also attended the Meeting. The SEAFDEC auditors were also present in the meeting.

Mr. Nao Thuok, the Council Director for Cambodia and Co-Chairman for the ASEAN of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG), reported on the 5th Meeting of the FCG. It was also held in Manila on March 10, a day prior to the Council Meeting. After due deliberation, the Council endorsed the

FCG report including the recommendations.

Other important topics discussed during the Meeting were: (1) management of the Center: policy considerations on sustainability of SEAFDEC, and collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations; and (2) financial matters: adoption of the auditor's financial report for 2001, and proposed budgetary requirements for 2004.

The Council adopted the report of its 35th Meeting on the last day March 14. The Council then accepted gratefully Thailand's invitation to host the 36th Council Meeting.

Seminar workshop on shrimp culture at Misamis Occidental

AQD conducted a seminar-workshop on environment-friendly shrimp culture from March 23 to 25 in Tangub City.

Thirty-three shrimp pond operators, all members of Aquamarine Multipurpose Cooperative (AMMCO), attended the seminar-workshop. Another 10 beneficiaries of the Consultancy for Agricultural Productivity Enhancement (CAPE) Project in Misamis Occidental were also in attendance. The seminar-workshop was conducted at the request of DOST Region 10 and AMMCO.

The AQD resource persons who conducted the seminar-workshop were Dr. Celia Lavilla-Torres, Mr. Nelson Golez, and Mr.

Neil Raphael Jamon. Topics discussed in the lectures were: soil and water quality considerations; fish health management; feeds and feeding management; environment-friendly shrimp culture systems; and culture methodology. As a field exercise, the seminar-workshop participants visited shrimp farms nearby.

Shrimp farmers' knowledge on sound management practices on shrimp culture will enable them to achieve a higher yield per unit area. Thus, this seminar-workshop was important to the participants in particular, and to the entire shrimp industry in Misamis Occidental, in general.



“God does not play dice with the Universe.”

Albert Einstein



The Chief, Mr. Ibrahim bin Saleh (center), and Deputy Chief, Mr. Yoshikazu Nakamura (left) tour AQD with Dr. Teodora Bagarinao (right)

MFRDMD Chief and Deputy Chief visit AQD

The Chief, Mr. Ibrahim bin Saleh, and Deputy Chief, Mr. Yoshikazu Nakamura, of Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) in Malaysia visited AQD on March 17.

RD Head, Dr. Clarissa Marte briefed them on the programs and activities of AQD while FishWorld curator, Dr. Teodora Bagarinao toured the two around AQD.

Thirteen AQD employees graduate



The graduates:

Front (left to right): Pacita Bantillan, Felma Batatin (dependent of an AQD employee), Maila Sobejano, and Rosalinda Tamonan

Back (left to right): Menelio Argues, Sotero Magallanes, Jerry Babiera, Rico Andrada, Gerald Gonzaga, Angelo Miranda, Joy Entusiasmo, Romeo Buendia, Edwin Balbon, and Nelson Tibubos

middle age. As the saying goes, “better late than never,” the 13 are to be commended for their persistence and perseverance to earn a college degree.

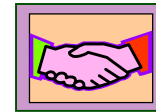
The graduates were: Rico Andrada, Menelio Argues, Jerry Babiera, Edwin Balbon, Romeo Buendia, Joy Entusiasmo, Gerald Gonzaga, Sotero Magallanes, Angelo Miranda, Nelson Tibubos, Pacita Bantillan, Maila Sobejano, and Rosalinda Tamonan.

The graduates were the survivors who started in 1999 at the School of Distance Education held at TID Conference Room on Sundays. The class in 1999 was composed of 40 students.

To the graduates, our CONGRATULATIONS! - AP Surtida

Thirteen AQD employees graduated on March 21 with a Bachelor in Fishery Technology De-

gree from Iloilo State College of Fisheries (ISCOF), Barotac Nuevo inspite of advancing



AQD improves seaweed strains

AQD, in collaboration with BFAR, is undertaking strain improvement of commercially important seaweeds, and development of culture systems for marine and brackishwater species.

Improved strains of *Kappaphycus* and *Eucheuma* were developed through tissue culture and mutagenesis. Callus induction and plantlet regeneration were obtained using different concentrations of plant growth hormones (PGRs), carbon compounds and ‘Boston recipe’ (PAA + zeatin). The ‘Boston

recipe’ showed highest regeneration, and 100% callus induction compared with the PGRs and carbon compounds. Green *K. striatum* plantlets can tolerate salinity of 23. However, the plants were healthiest, and attained 100% survival at 32 and 35 ppt, respectively. Several plantlets of red and green *K. striatum* treated with nitro-3-methyl guanidine (NTG) are under hatchery conditions for possible outplanting in the future.

Based on Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) analysis, *E. denticulatum* regenerants appeared to be genetically stable.

Successful release of spores from carposporophyte and

tetrasporophyte was observed in *Gracilaria firma* and *Gracilariopsis heteroclada*. The spores, under favorable conditions, grew and developed at a rate of 10% per day.

Several samples of *Gracilaria*, *Kappaphycus* and *Eucheuma* were collected from different places of Panay for DNA polymorphism analysis; samples were pulverized in liquid nitrogen and stored at -20°C. – AQ Hurtado

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