

# SEAFDEC AQD Matters

In-house newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo

## AQD hosts center-wide information meeting

AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo (below, leftmost) notes that information dissemination is crucial to the SEAFDEC mandate on sustainable fisheries: "Our stakeholders need to know how they can benefit from our R&D results and make their farming operations sustainable; our funding partners need to know the progress of our collaborative work; and our SEAFDEC colleagues need to know what our other colleagues are doing because we are a big family with four departments distributed in four countries and speaking different languages."



To the AQD Chief's left are SEAFDEC Secretariat's information program coordinator Ms. Pouchamarn Wongsanga who chaired the meeting and SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnam Pongsri.

"The SEAFDEC Council has recognized the relevance of our information materials in supporting the development of fisheries-related policy," said Dr. Chumnam. "(But a lot more can be done) especially for next year's ASEAN-SEAFDEC conference (which will set our direction until 2020.)"



To learn from the best, ISEP participants visited the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila where they were briefed on the bank's publishing program, field dissemination activities (above, done by communications specialist Ms. Susan Hooper) and their website.

ADB has written and published what they termed as "impact stories" for their projects in Indonesia, Uzbekistan and other central / west Asian countries. They have also made a multinational perceptions survey of their stakeholders in 2009 to assess ADB's impact, performance, strengths and areas for improvement

AQD hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Exchange Program (ISEP) from 6 to 8 October in Manila.

ISEP is a yearly gathering of center officials and information officers to consolidate data and monitor the implementation of information strategies put into place in 2005. The five strategies, aimed at promoting SEAFDEC activities and increasing the center's visibility among its stakeholders, are as follows:

(1) *Production of relevant, timely, and useful information materials to meet the requirements of stakeholders.* As the biggest department, AQD contributed 28 of the 39 technical / scientific articles that SEAFDEC produced this year, and 12 of the 61 farmer-friendly publications & multi-media

(2) *Raising SEAFDEC image at international, regional and national levels.* AQD produced 7 of the 44 institutional or promotional materials, exhibited in 4 out of 18 fairs, and got the most website unique visitors (more than half of the 60,000 combined total of all departments). Of the 120 public media appearances, 84% was of AQD

(3) *Enhancing communication and information sharing within the SEAFDEC family and among non-member countries, international organizations & the general public.* SEAFDEC made collaborative agreements with at least 22 funding agencies and stakeholder groups, receiving around USD 2.7 million worth

of grants which is an increase of 9% compared to 2009. AQD external funding amounted to about USD 0.61 million. SEAFDEC was also present in 49 international and local meetings; AQD in 10 of these. SEAFDEC itself organized 84 meetings /workshops and training courses, attended mostly by stakeholders from Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam.

(4) *Strengthening SEAFDEC capability in information-related activities.* Information staff attended nine short-courses/seminars relevant to their work. For AQD, five information assistants trained on library resource development and press release writing.

(5) *Regular monitoring and evaluation of information activities.* This is done during ISEP which will be hosted next by MFRDMD in Malaysia.

The meeting also made arrangements for the production of *SEAFDEC Annual Report 2010*, *SEAFDEC Calendar 2012*, the magazine *Fish for the People*, and the department exhibits & drawing contests for the *ASEAN-SEAFDEC conference* in June 2011 in Bangkok.



Participants to the 11<sup>th</sup> ISEP include (seated): Ms. Pouchamarn, Dr. Toledo, Dr. Chumnam, Chief of MFRD Mr. Yeap Soon Eong, and MFRDMD's training & info head Mr. Abdul Razak bin Latun. Standing are information officers from the Secretariat and Departments, including the Secretariat's Mr. Somnuk Pompatimakorn who is also SEAFDEC's administration & finance coordinator (3rd from right), AQD training head Ms. Kaylin Corre, AQD development communication head Ms. Mila Castañón and AQD training & info head Mr. Renato Agbayani

## New agreement with the University of Tehran



AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo and University of Tehran Vice-Chancellor for Research Dr. Mohammad Jafari

AQD signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Tehran to develop academic programs that will allow students and staff of both institutions to share expertise. This was done in Tehran on 27 October.

While in Iran, Dr. Toledo also attended the 2nd International

congress on aquatic animal health management and diseases, presenting a paper on Asian aquaculture and AQD's fish health R&D. The congress was held 26-27 October. - KDC Abroguena

## AQD attends Chinese S&T forum

AQD scientist Dr. Ma. Lourdes Aralar was invited by the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences to participate in the 2010 Forum on fisheries science and technology held 10-13 October in Wuxi, China.

Dr. Aralar gave a presentation on *The ACIAR-BFAR Rinconada lakes project: improving fish culture practices for sustainability and profitability* during the first joint plenary session.

She likewise presented AQD's facilities and research activities at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center in Wuxi on October 13 and at the East China Seas Fisheries Research Institute in Shanghai on October 14.

Prior to attending the forum, she gave a talk about her current activities as part of the *Colloquium in honor of Prof. Klaus Becker* held in Stuttgart, Germany last 3-10 October. She was also able to meet Dr. Jutta Fastner of the Umwelt Bundesamt (Federal Environment Agency) in Berlin to discuss possible collaborations on harmful freshwater algal blooms. Her trip was sponsored by the Hohenheim University through the Tropenzentrum.



Meeting and consultation with officers and researchers of the East China Seas Fisheries Research Institute



L-R: Dr. Hartmut Richter, Dr. Malou Aralar, Dr. Gall, Dr. Klaus Becker, and Mrs. Beatrix Fisher

## PTAC meets in Manila

PTAC or the Philippine Technical Administrative Committee for AQD held its 20th meeting on 20 October in Quezon City. PTAC is composed of senior representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

The meeting was convened to review the R&D programs and administration & finance of AQD in 2010 and its plans for 2011 so these can be endorsed by the Philippine government to the SEAFDEC Program Committee which will in turn meet in November this year.

PTAC is currently co-chaired by DA Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup and BFAR National Director Atty. Malcolm Sarmiento.

PTAC acknowledged the achievements of AQD on aquaculture technology development which is now benefiting Filipino fish farmers. The committee also recognized the need for AQD to increase its overall visibility so Filipino policymakers will appreciate more the technologies coming out of AQD and also to improve funding opportunities. PTAC recommended that (1) AQD and BFAR establish a formal program that will create a pool of experts who can touch base with the aquaculture industry to widely disseminate its work on high value marine species; and (2) AQD to increase the funds allotted for training and information so it can link up with BFAR regional fisheries training centers.

- B Acosta



L-R: BFAR National Director Atty. Malcolm Sarmiento, DA Assistant Secretary Hon. Salvador Salacup, AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo, and UPV College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Dean Dr. Carlos Baylon. The AQD Deputy Chief and division heads were also in attendance

## AQD joins AgriLink 2010

AQD took part in the Philippines' largest agricultural trade fair, *AgriLink 2010*, held 7-9 October at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

MO and BFS staff took turns in manning the booth, providing free technical consultation and sold AQD publications, earning more than Php 47,000 in book sales. Free flyers and institutional reports were also given out.

Good agricultural practices and small ruminants were the main focus of this year's *AgriLink*.



SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnam Pongsri and AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo at AQD's AgriLink booth

# Sandfish training: a first at AQD

**A**QD conducted the first training course on seed production and nursery of sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) which was attended by eight participants from Tanzania (1), United Kingdom (1), Malaysia (2), and Philippines (4) from 12 to 26 October in Iloilo.

Lecture topics included sandfish biology, broodstock collection & management; natural food organisms; spawning induction & egg collection; larval rearing; nursery systems management; and grow-out culture. The subsequent practicals were done in the new sandfish hatchery and at AQD's Igang Marine Station.

"I am proud to attend this course," noted Mr. Twalibu Mmbaga of Tanzania. He said that

this is the first training he attended that is so intensive, professionally managed, and well-organized. "When I come back to my country I am confident to share the knowledge that I learned from here," he added.

On the other hand, Ms. Georgina Robinson of U.K. related how she got wind of AQD's newly inaugurated sandfish hatchery from the AQD website, and followed its progress, including the hatchery's first harvest which, she said, impressed her. She hoped that with this technology, she and her co-trainees "will become millionaires within five years."



RIA 3-Vietnam researcher Dr. Nguyen Dinh Quang Duy and AQD visiting scientist Ms. Marie Frances Nievaes supervising the trainees in their practicals on larval rearing. Dr. Ruth Gamboa of UP Mindanao (below) discussed sandfish production in Mindanao.

Lecturers / practical instructors from AQD also included Ms. Milagros de la Peña, Dr. Jacques Zarate and Mr. Jesus Rodriguez Jr

L-R: Trainees prepare larval food, collect sandfish broodstock at Igang, and identify external parts of sandfish



R PAGADOR

Let's get this party started! The TID conference room was filled with music and food on 14 October as the AQD community welcomed the eight participants of the sandfish course and the three interns on abalone and mudcrab

## Welcome party



At the closing ceremony, AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma expressed his appreciation of AQD's continuing effort in disseminating the new sandfish technology especially because communities can make it a part of their resource enhancement program.

AQD is developing sandfish technologies in collaboration with Vietnam's Research Institute of Aquaculture No. 3 (RIA 3), University of the Philippines, ACIAR through the WorldFish Center, and JIRCAS.

## Capiz invites AQD resource persons for grouper course

AQD was invited by the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in Roxas City, Capiz to lecture on three topics for their *On-site training on grouper cage culture* on 7 October.

Fish health section in-charge Dr. Edgar

Amar, Igang station head Mr. Albert Gaitan and visiting scientist Mr. Nelson Golez discussed grouper diseases & health management; cage culture, design & construction; and grouper nutrition & feed formulation.



Participants, coordinators and lecturers of the grouper cage culture training in Roxas City

## Trainees and intern

For the month of October, AQD welcomed two trainees from France and Singapore, and an intern from Malaysia.

Mr. Laurent Chellapermal of France went through the *Training course on abalone hatchery and grow-out* from 29 September to 19 October. This is his second training at AQD; his first, on marine fish hatchery, was held May 2008.

Mr. Nigel Lim of Singapore attended the *Specialized training course on crab production and grow-out* from 6 to 22 October.

Ms. Annita Yong, a teacher of aquaculture from University of Malaysia Sabah, underwent internship training at mud crab hatchery from 4 to 27 October.



## Research seminars

Dr. Fahrul Huyop from University Technology Malaysia presented his study entitled *Biodegradation of xenobiotics by dehalogenase from Rhizobium sp. RC1* on October 14.

Dr. Huyop noted that microorganisms like *Rhizobium sp. RC1* can biodegrade or utilize halogenated substances because they produce enzymes known as dehalogenase that can cleave the carbon-halogen bond. But if *Rhizobium sp. RC1* is grown in non-halogenated carbon sources, they can only produce dehalogenase if induced by haloalkanoic acids. The bacterium was also noted to possess multiple dehalogenases and to grow better in brominated alkanooate substrates.

Dr. Nguyen Dinh Quang Duy from Vietnam's Research Institute for Aquaculture No. 3 gave a presentation on *Grow-out culture of sandfish* on October 19.

To grow sandfish in ponds, he said that a sandy substrate is important. The facility should preferably be near the intertidal zone with a stable salinity of at least 25 ppt. He suggested that the optimal pond size is between 0.5-1.0 ha and the temperature is not below 22°C for the whole year.

He also presented the procedures in pond preparation, seed transfer & release, and pond



Certificates of appreciation were given to Dr. Fahrul Huyop (right) and Dr. Nguyen Dinh Quang Duy (left) by AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo and farming systems & ecology head Dr. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos for giving time to share their research study to AQD staff

management. He emphasized that sandfish should be at least 300 g before it can be harvested by hand or using a trawl net.



Dr. ND Salayo

Dr. Nerissa Salayo, AQD Associate Scientist, gave a lecture on *Aquaculture economics and risk analysis: concepts and applications* on 20 October. She noted the importance of aquaculture economics in terms of evaluating viability of investments & new technology; determining efficiency of resources use; improving management practices; assessing market potential; and identifying research priorities and policies.

For risk analysis, she explained that production and market uncertainties are the sources of risks that lead to financial losses. She mentioned that in dealing with risks and uncertainties, one must identify first their sources.

She also discussed the costs-and-returns analysis as well as the budget analysis to help the AQD senior staff prepare their budget proposals.

## TVDD's new products

**H**ave you ever tried eating siganid *lamayo* and *hamonado* before? If not, try these new value-added products of siganid marinated in flavored sauce introduced by AQD's Technology Verification and Demonstration Division (TVDD). These products were processed from siganid harvests of demonstration and packaging head Ms. Jocelyn Ladja and technical assistant Mr. Noel Opiña. You can purchase these mouth-watering delicacies for only Php 85 for every 250 g of *lamayo* and Php 95 for every 250 g of *hamonado*.

Since October 15, TVDD already sold 25



Siganid flavors: *lamayo* and *hamonado* (bottom)

packs of siganid *lamayo* and *hamonado*.

"It's crispy and tasty," said Ms. Remia Travina of RD who tried both products. Meanwhile, Ms. Sunshine Bonitillo of HRMS preferred *hamonado* since it is something new and sweet.



## AQD staff @ fishcon

**A**QD sent its staff to the *Fish convention week 2010: Understanding the present challenges in Philippine Fisheries* that was organized by the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute held 11-12 October in Quezon City.

Listening to lectures on climate change, biodiversity, food security and others were technology verification & demonstration head Dr. Maria Rowena Eguia, Binangonan Freshwater Station head Engr. Emiliano Aralar, associate researcher Dr. Frolan Aya, senior technical assistant Ms. Mary Nia Santos and technical assistant Ms. Josephine Dianne Deauna.

- JD Deauna

## Waste segregation at AQD



**T**o protect, preserve, and conserve the environment and ecosystem, AQD's Housing, Building & Grounds Maintenance Unit provided pairs of communal garbage bins (100-liter capacity) on October 8. These garbage bins were properly labeled for biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes for strategic areas outside the buildings and grounds of the Tigbauan Main Station compound in Iloilo.

Let's do our share to maintain the cleanliness of our surroundings! Everyone is enjoined to segregate their garbage.



### AQD Matters

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# Fare thee well Dr. Celia, Mr. Manny and Ms. Paz

## Dr. Celia Pitogo

HER NEW POST Brunei Darussalam as Director of Aquatic Animal Health Center of Integrated Aquaculture International

AQD Chief Dr. JD TOLEDO on Dr. Pitogo: "AQD is sad that a senior researcher of good standing leaves AQD but it is also inspiring that her expertise is recognized by a SEAFDEC member-country."



Dr. Clarissa Marte (former head of two of AQD's divisions ~ research and technology verification & demonstration) and Dr. Flor Lacanilao (ex-Chief of AQD) at the despedida party for Dr. Pitogo on July 7



Dr. Celia Pitogo (center) poses with her friends (L-R) Dr. Veronica Alava, Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa, Dr. Emilia Quintio, and Dr. Mae Catacutan



Dr. Pitogo gives her all out smile after receiving a token from training&information head Mr. Renato Agbayani and training section head Ms. Kaylin Corre

## Mr. Manny Laron

HIS NEW DIRECTION Emigration to the U.S.A.



Mr. Laron receives a plaque of appreciation from AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo



AQD staff partake of the potluck snacks prepared for Mr. Manny on 26 August

## Ms. Paciencia Garibay

HER NEW OCCUPATION Retirement OF PAZ, COLLEAGUES SAY "She's a peaceful person doing her best for her family."

PAZ SAYS: "After almost three decades working here, AQD is worth loving and worth remembering."



Mr. RF Agbayani gives a token to Ms. Garibay on 11 October, her 60th birthday.

