



AQD Matters

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

Year-end's gifts

To the sea: dugong and turtles

A dugong was found in a fish trap near AQD's Igang Marine Station (IMS) last December 12, 2006. It was 2.6 m long, and was rescued, documented, and released 1 km off Tiniguiban Island in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras by IMS station head Albert Gaitan and staff.

Three days later, on December 15, five marine turtles that had been in the care of AQD's FishWorld for a month to a year were released in the Sulu Sea. The event, called "Panaw

Pawikan", was attended by AQD and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff.

Two of the turtles had been made pets or domesticated, three were caught by fishers; and all five turned over by DENR to FishWorld for rehabilitation prior to release. One had papillomas on tail and neck, leeches on

papillomas, and barnacles between scutes of plastron.

All the turtles had been tagged while in rehab.

The turtles started their journey from AQD's main station pier in Tigbauan, Iloilo and continued on for about 3 hours in a large outrigger boat before finally reaching their new home.

The dugong at Igang (leftmost photo column), and the turtles at Tigbauan await their release. AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Koichi Okuzawa (standing leftmost, top middle column), Research Head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson, and FishWorld Curator Dr. Teodora Bagarinao are among those happily sending off the turtles



DUGONG PHOTOS Courtesy of A. GAITAN

I. TENDENCIA

Year-end's gifts

To the neighbor-communities: food for the families

In the tradition of AQD's Christmas celebration, the Journal Club facilitated last year's gift-giving activity. Marget Arnaiz spearheaded it. The target beneficiaries were the indigent families of Brgy.



NIA SANTOS

The community prays and sings to start the activity; Ms. Gonzaga and Enrico help hand out the gift pails; Mr. Garcesto (in green) with a resident



Nanga, Buyuan and Parara Sur, adjacent barangays to AQD's Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo.

A minimum monetary contribution of P200 was solicited from the employees. But there were some who gave more, P500 to as much as P1,000, bringing the total contributions to P31,612. Enrico DJ Ayson, aged 5-and-a-half and the son of the RD Head, gave his piggy bank savings, a bag of one-peso coins.

The total contribution was used to purchase grocery items which were placed in a brand-new pail for each family. The list of indigent families was taken from the respective barangay captains with the coordination of Manny Garcesto, AQD's community relations officer.

On December 13, 2006, the grocery items were packed by an assembly-line of volunteers that made the activity a fast one. In the afternoon of December 14, the scheduled activity began at 3 PM but as early as 1 PM, the recipients were already gathering at the gate!

The gift-giving started with a prayer and a community singing of Christmas songs facilitated by Mrs. Mor Miranda, barangay captain of Buyuan. Then the calling out of names of the recipients and giving them their gifts started. Enrico was also present to help out.

Most of the recipients had smiles on their faces and there were some teary-eyed moments. There were some confusion when some presented their claim stubs but their names were not on the list. Overall, the activity went smoothly.

The representatives of 120 families went home with their packs and the volunteers all had a huge smile and a lightness in the hearts after the task. The journal club members capped the day at Racso's swimming pool.

To all who were generous, on behalf of the recipients, our heartfelt thanks. May we continue to receive the Almighty's bounty so we could continue to share to our neighbors.

- JOSETTE GONZAGA and MARGARITA ARNAIZ

Ms. Arnaiz and Mrs. Miranda flank a gift-recipient; busy ladies of the Journal Club show off the gift pails while in assembly

New year's gifts

To the people of Panay: seabass, grouper, mudcrab

The Hamtik, Antique site of ICD-SA or the *Institutional capacity development for sustainable aquaculture* project netted about 200 pieces of seabass in its first partial harvest at dawn on February 2.

A total 83 kilograms of 400-g seabass were brought to Manila for a trial market run.

Mr. Carlo Javier, who coordinates for the Office of Cong. Javier, oversaw the harvest, from weighing and recording to sending off the fish via RORO boat. The AQD Chief, the TID Head, Dr. Felix Ayson, Mr. Eliseo Coniza, Mr. Sonny Pagador were on hand to witness and provide technical assistance if needed.

The culture period was 5 months, with the stocking of fingerlings done by the group of 10 technicians who attended an on-site training in early August last year. The seabass came from AQD's hatchery.

Meanwhile, the Pandan site is set to harvest too, in late February. The commodity there is also seabass, about 600 kg of market-sized fish has been raised in cages set near the mouth of Bugang River.

On the other hand, the Capiz site of *ICB-sustainable aquaculture and coastal resources management* is in full swing, with grouper and mudcrab already stocked in

R. GUARIN



Seabass harvest in Hamtik, Antique

R. PAGADOR



Mr. Golez lectures with five other AQD researchers, and brings the 35 trainees to the pond for actual water monitoring exercise

the ponds of CAPSU's (Capiz State University) Dayao campus in Roxas City.

Stocked February 8 were 660 grouper juveniles in a 1,200 m² pond, and 2,000 crablets in another 6,500 m² pond.

Both grouper and mudcrab were from AQD's own hatcheries. Harvest is expected in 4 to 5 months.

These grouper and mudcrab will be taken cared of by the 35 Capizenos who attended the first phase of the *Season-long training course on brackishwater aquaculture*.

This first phase (on aquaculture production systems) was conducted February 14-15 in collaboration with CAPSU and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist-Capiz.

Four more phases will follow:

PHASE II hands-on stock sampling, feeding, water management and fish

health management on March 7-8

PHASE III Hands-on feed preparation on March 16

PHASE IV Project feasibility study preparation on April 10-11; and

PHASE V Hands-on harvest and post-harvest handling sometime in June

The first phase course was handled by Mr. RF Agbayani (overview of sustainable aquaculture and economic analysis of selected aqua systems), Dr. NS Chavoso (pond prep and natural food production), Dr. ET Quintio (mudcrab nursery and grow-out culture), Mr. NV Golez (soil-water quality analysis; instrumentation; and feeds and feeding practices), Mr. A Gaitan (seabass-grouper culture in ponds-cages), and Dr. E Amar (fish health management).

Course officer was Ms. KG Corre, assisted by Mr. R Pagador.

New year's gifts

To the people of Ilocos Norte: a multi-species hatchery

The AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo, TID Head Mr. RF Agbayani, and IMS Head Mr. A Gaitan were in Laoag to meet Governor Ferdinand Marcos Jr and BFAR-I Regional Director Nestor Domenden on January 29 and 30.

They discussed Ilocos Norte's need for technical assistance to put up a marine fish breeding and hatchery project.

The Chief presented AQD's programs and Mr.

After the presentations, AQD officials pose with the Ilocos group, including Gov. Marcos (middle, front row)



PHOTO courtesy of F CASTRO

Gaitan the technical details of a multi-species hatchery while Mr. RFA talked about the *Institutional capacity development* project concept that is being implemented by Antique and Capiz and is possible for Ilocos Norte. He also

discussed the economics of the proposed fish hatchery in Ilocos Norte. Both were well-received and details of a collaboration are being ironed out in a memorandum of understanding.



To the industry: packaged technologies

A compendium of commercialized aquatic technologies was released by PCAMRD (Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development) on January 31, 2007.

The CD volume contains 14 of AQD's science-based technologies that had been extended to and adopted by the private sector.

The compendium was a brainchild of Hon. Cong. Luis Villafuerte, Chair of the House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries, who wanted at least 50 technologies that can be disseminated throughout the country. His main criterion for such technologies is that these should earn for the adoptors a monthly net income of at least 15,000 pesos to get them above the poverty line.

Searchable by location, ecosystem, and investment cost, the technologies written and contributed by AQD were the following:

- 1 Hatchery and freshwater cage culture of tilapia
- 2 Pen culture and hatchery-nursery of bighead carp
- 3 Milkfish hatchery
- 4 Seabass hatchery and cage culture
- 5 Brackishwater pond culture of black tiger shrimp
- 6 Brackishwater pond culture, pen culture in mangroves, and fattening in cages for mudcrabs
- 7 Marine cage culture and brackishwater pond culture of grouper
- 8 Modified triangular method, fixed off bottom monoline method, and floating monoline method of farming *Eucheuma* and *Kappaphycus*

The Central Luzon State University, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, UP Marine Science Institute and private groups also contributed technologies which were on:

- 1 Freshwater fishpen culture of milkfish
 - 2 Hatchery-nursery and freshwater pond culture of African catfish
 - 3 Freshwater cage and semi-intensive freshwater pond culture of tilapia
 - 4 Growout of sea urchin
 - 5 Production of agar-agar powder for tissue culture
 - 6 Marine pond culture of *Caulerpa*
- Training-Information Head Mr. Rene Agbayani and AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo attended the PCAMRD anniversary celebration and compendium launching in Los Banos, Laguna.

Gifts of mind and heart

To the industry: new fish health workers

Fifteen new fish health workers were certified by AQD after successfully completing on January 28, 2007 the *Distance Learning Module on the Principles of Health Management in Aquaculture*.

Topping the list of eLearners is Dr. Jorge Galindo-Villegas, a private participant who originally hails from Mexico and who got a 96% rating. Dr. Villegas, 39, is a nutritionist by training who presently works as a freelance consultant in Chiguire, Konan Yasu, Japan.

On the second top slot is another Jorge, Dr. Cuellar-Anjel, 42, who heads the Pathology and Research Department of CAMACO in Panama City.

The internet-based training course began September last year. -
- CARYL GENZOLA

TOP-DOWN Topnotcher Dr. Jorge Villegas of Mexico; AQD coordinators for the internet-based course Ms. Gigi Tendencia and Mr. Caryl Genzola; and Aklan State U vet med students at AQD



PHOTO Courtesy of GD LIO-PO

AQD was in Yangon, Myanmar to conduct two training-workshops on health management for fish (January 29 to February 4, above photo) and shrimp/prawn (February 5 to 9).

The courses were funded by the Government of Japan Trust Fund and had Myanmar's Department of Fisheries as collaborating partner.

On hand to lecture and teach practicals on fish health were Dr. Gilda Lio-Po and Dr. Leobert de la Pena; while shrimp/prawn was taken cared of by Dr. Celia Pitogo and Dr. de la Pena.

A total of 33 participants were in both sessions ~ government fisheries officers, fish/shrimp farmers, and staff of feed companies.

Veterinarians, whose business is to cure animals, may soon reinforce the limited number of fish health workers in aquaculture.

Aklan State University sent 16 senior students from its School of Veterinary Medicine to AQD for a 2-week hands-on training on *Fish diseases* from January 29 to February 9.

The vet students' clinical internship included lectures and practicals as arranged by AQD's Fish Health Section headed by Dr. Celia Pitogo. The subjects included bacterial, viral, parasitic and fungal

diseases. There were also demos on PCR methods, slide preparation, shrimp postlarvae monitoring, fungal isolation, electron microscopy; and video showing on fish vaccination methods.

The students were also able to study Modules 2, 4 and 5 of AquaHealth Online. They were graded for attending lectures (25%) and undergoing practical activities (75%).

This training course is part of the clinical experience requirement to obtain the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. - C GENZOLA

Gifts of mind and heart

To science: agreement on biotech

AQD and DA's National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) have signed a supplemental memorandum on the aquaculture biotechnology program. This was done January 12, 2007.

Dr. Westly Rosario, *Interim Executive Director*, obligated NFRDI to:

- 1 implement the studies that needs the facilities of NFRDI stations; and second its staff as co-investigators
- 2 provide facilities for pilot demo, and collaborate in training and on-farm verification trials
- 3 assist in sourcing wild stocks of freshwater and marine organisms for studies on genetic diversity and in implementing stock enhancement trials



- 4 with AQD's assistance, take the lead in implementing the nationwide disease surveillance project

Dr. Joebert Toledo, *AQD Chief*, set these tasks for the Department:

- 1 be the main research investigator and collaborate with Japanese experts and other scientists; collaborate and train NFRDI staff in research methodologies and advanced tech through their actual participation as co-investigators
- 2 provide technical assistance to NFRDI in setting up infrastructures

- such as broodstock-hatchery facilities in NFRDI stations
- 3 collaborate in demo and pilot-testing of advanced technologies

Witnessed by Mr. Francisco Santos, *Chief of NFRDI's Aquaculture R&D Division*, and by Dr. Evelyn Grace DJ Ayson, *Head of AQD's Research Division*, both parties also agreed that research results will be the intellectual property of the Philippine government, and that NFRDI will provide an initial P2.2 million budget which will be administered by AQD.

To science: a new PhD, a Royal Academy member

Congratulations to Dr. Jurgenne Primavera who was elected Corresponding Member of the Section of Natural and Medical Sciences, Academie Royale des Sciences D'Outre-Mer (=Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences of Belgium).

Writing from Brussels, the academy's Permanent Secretary Danielle Swinne informed Dr. Primavera on January 24. The academy is a non-government organization founded in 1928 to promote scientific knowledge.

Back in 2002, Dr. Primavera was elected member of the Swedish Royal Academy on Agriculture and Forestry.

Congratulations too to AQD's newest PhD ~ Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos! Her studies funded by



Prof. Jim Atkinson (External Examiner from University of Glasgow), Dr. John Turner (Internal Examiner), Dr. Ray Seed (Head of the School of Ocean Sciences and Defense Chair), Dr. Lewis Le Vay, and Dr. Lebata-Ramos

the European Commission, Dr. Ramos pursued her PhD Ocean Sciences from February 1, 2003 through November 17, 2006 at the University of Wales Bangor in the United Kingdom.

She was advised by Dr. Lewis Le Vay on her dissertation "Stock enhancement of the mud crabs *Scylla* spp. in the mangroves of Naisud and Bugtong Bato, Ibaday, Aklan."

Back here at AQD, Dr. Ramos is conducting stock enhancement trials of giant clam at the Sagay Marine

Reserve, Malalison Island, and Igang Marine Substation.

We also note with pride the pursuit of a *Special Three-year Doctoral Program for Foreign Students in Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Related Sciences* by Ms. Fiona Pedrosa, AQD's research specialist I who resigned October 30, 2006.

Ms. Pedrosa is now studying at Ehime University, Japan, under Dr. Toshiro Matsumoto, and with a scholarship from the university.

Another lady in pursuit of excellence is Ms. Eleonor Tendencia, AQD research specialist II.

Ms. Tendencia is just starting her doctoral studies at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. She's on leave starting February 1, 2007.

She was awarded a sandwich fellowship which is comprised of 3 periods ~ the first (course work) and third (writing and defending thesis) to be spent in Wageningen for a total of 16 months. The second period will be for research to be done at AQD.

Shared tasks with SEAFDEC family

ISEP: the information mandate

Does the general public and the science community appreciate SEAFDEC well enough? Can we build on such recognition to generate support and much needed project funds?

These are just two of the questions that worry SEAFDEC officials no end during previous high-level SEAFDEC meetings, and again at ISEP, the 7th meeting of the *Information Staff Exchange Program*

that AQD hosted late last year, December 20-22 in Iloilo.

Secretary-General Dr. Siri Ekmarahaj came, as well as senior Secretariat officials (Mr. Somnuk, Ms. Pouchamarn, Mr. Suriyan, Ms. Nae Tongdee, Mr. Sonthikan), and nine officers working on information-related activities at TD, MFRD, MFRDMD, TD and AQD.

How to measure SEAFDEC visibility is a critical first step to address



SEAFDEC's much talked about "image problem." These criteria were drafted by ISEP-7:

- (1) number of user-groups, downloads or visits, and citation index for books or manuals, websites, and technical or journal publications, respectively
- (2) number of appearances in public media or mass media and popular magazines
- (3) number of requests (and responses) for information at department libraries and offices; number of visitor-groups
- (4) feedback from stakeholders; rate of income generation from info materials
- (5) number and support of collaborators, partners, donors.

Inputs on the above will be sought from the four SEAFDEC departments beginning 2007. No less than four documents, from the 1998 *SEAFDEC Strategic Plan*, 1999 *Information Policy Plan*, 2001 *Millennium Resolution*, to the 2006 *Information Strategies for Enhancing Visibility and Communication* want such baseline data.

The Secretariat also requested inputs to 2007's "big" event: the celebration of the Center's 40th year anniversary. It enjoined the departments to incorporate this in their annual anniversary festivities. A commemorative publication and a video are also being lined up.

Two new proposals were considered: that of SEAFDEC membership to a library network (from AQD) and that of institutionalizing knowledge management concept for the whole of SEAFDEC (from MFRDMD).

The information officers presented their respective Department's information initiatives, after which the ISEP participants were given a tour of AQD facilities at Tigbauan and Dumangas. AQD was represented by Ms. Mila Castanos, Ms. Kaylin Corre, Ms. Amy Arisola and Dr. Teodora Bagarinao. AQD Chief Dr. JD Toledo was also present in the discussions.

Shared tasks with SEAFDEC family

Experts meeting: statistics, information, indicators

The SEAFDEC Secretariat convened the *Expert meeting on fishery statistics, information and indicators* in Bangkok late last year, November 27 to 29. The meeting reviewed current programs, and discussed "bottle neck" issues in the production and usage of fishery information.

Fishery statistics, data-information, and indicators are used in formulating policies and management programs. SEAFDEC's work includes strengthening and maximizing national fishery stat systems, and developing standards to facilitate regional

information exchange. This work is difficult if data gathering is not efficient or if sufficient funding is not in place.

SEAFDEC has already developed a database on fisheries.

Participants were national experts from ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries. Representatives from FAO (Dr. Simon Funge-Smith, Mr. David Lymer, Mr. Shunji Sugiyama), Mekong River Commission, UNEP/GEF/SCS, and from within SEAFDEC also participated.

AQD was represented by Information Associate Stephen Alayon, and the Philippines by Mr. Romeo

Recide of BAS and Mr. Noel Barut of NFRDI.

During the meeting, experts reviewed existing projects. Overall, there are still problems pertaining to (1) the quality of data-information collection; (2) the utilization and sharing of existing data-info by fishery and non-fishery users; (3) the presence of information gaps such as the importance and contribution of small-scale fisheries, capture fisheries-aquaculture linkages and food security, among others. The last one in particular supports key management issues like overcapacity and fisheries refugia. – SB ALAYON

Do you like AQD Matters? A quick survey.

Indulge us please by answering the following questions. We'd like to see an in-house newsletter that caters to the information needs of our not-so-little community here at AQD ;+>

ON THE CONTENTS

1 What is/are the article/s you most remember among last year's issues? and why?

The article/s was/were on

and I remember because:
(PLEASE CHECK)

- Basta lang!*
- I am in it ;+> or my close friends or competitors are ;+>
- It relates to my work
- I like the way it was written or presented
- Sorry, I don't even read *AQD Matters* ;+<

2 What type of article/s would you, honestly, like to see in *AQD Matters*?

- Detailed management plans and expectations of employees
- Official version or explanation of rumors
- People-oriented stuff like notes on employees' children and family life
- What people may be selling or renting out from their closets and/or from their sidebusinesses
- Interviews of employees with unique achievements or working method
- The current coverage will suffice

- Suggests these topics

ON THE WRITING

- 3** Uninteresting and dry; improve!
- Too flowery or too much redundancy
- Too truncated or too short-ish
- Gives me enough details; likes it well-enough
- Very much well-written and well-edited; no changes needed
- Suggests these changes

ON THE DESIGN AND LAYOUT

- 4 Last year's issues are:**
- Pangit* to okay *lang*
 - Overdesigned or too sophisticated for an inhouse newsletter
 - The e-copy makes my eyes hurt; be "book-like" and don't continue article to other pages
 - Love the layout as it makes reading easy; keep design as is
 - Suggests these improvements _____

ON THE FREQUENCY

- 5** Monthly at least
- Every two months
- Every quarter
- Don't care
- It doesn't matter; I feel I am up-to-date with AQD events

ON THE DELIVERY

- 6** E-mailed PDF file is fine
- I prefer a hardcopy

ON READING HABIT

- 7** I read the PDF or hardcopy immediately after receiving it
- I save to my computer and read it more leisurely when I have time
- Quick scan only and save as reference
- I print a hardcopy to file
- Don't open or never read

OTHER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Please use separate sheet if necessary _____

Thank you for sharing your time and thoughts!

- DEVCOM

Please print this page, fill up and return to Mr. RF Agbayani, TID Head; or to Ms. Mila Castanos, Development Communication Unit. You may also just email your answers.

By **March 15** or earlier, please! Thank you.

signature and name of respondent
date: _____

AQD a community sharing experiences

LETTING OUR HAIR DOWN, BEING RE-ACQUAINTED OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF OFFICIAL WORK these we all did the Christmas past to such tremendous fun! Who could forget the RD boys turning themselves into girls in a skit about... something ;+> How about TID's Deal-or-No-Deal which won for them the best group presentation? They also won the best in lantern-making-using-indigenous-or-scrap-materials!

AFD also did the Kris Aquino show; while TVCD and the Management Group sang and danced their way into our hearts.

Cheers to reciprocal gift-giving, to friendships, to us, to AQD!

Contributions from AQD employees are always welcome!

Please send text separately from your jpeg photos (if any, and of 300 dpi quality if possible). Devcom also uses some of these materials to update the AQD website and as SEAFDEC Newsletter articles. Having the original text and photos would give us more flexibility

AQD Matters is published by the Development Communication Unit Training and Information Division Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo

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Editor this issue: MT Castanos

Thanks to our contributors who helped us gather the facts and images that make up a story.

Sa uulitin po! ;+>



I. TENDECIA