

SEAFDEC AQD Matters

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

SEAFDEC Int'l Workshop on Emerging Fish Diseases in Asia

AQD organized and convened the SEAFDEC International Workshop on Emerging Fish Diseases in Bangkok, Thailand on 6-7 December 2007. Seventy-one (71) attended, coming from 17 countries including all the SEAFDEC member-countries.

During the Workshop, the participants reviewed the status of emerging fish and shellfish microbial diseases in Southeast and East Asia; kept abreast of advances in the pathogenesis, diagnosis, epidemiology & surveillance of emerging microbial diseases; and discussed the future orientation of fish disease studies.

The results of the discussion will be reflected in the future research thrust of SEAFDEC's Regional Fish Disease Project. At the top of the list of concerns for sustainable production are secure seed supply and secure optimum rearing techniques.

As a related activity, the Project's study leaders from Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and AQD met with representatives from the National Research Institute of Aquaculture, Fisheries Research Agency (Japan) and SEAFDEC Secretariat on December 5, also in Bangkok, for the Project's annual progress and planning meeting.



Marfish hatchery training course for the Philippines

NACA (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific) is inviting concerned stakeholders to vie for ten fellowships for the *Marine fish hatchery training course*, slated this coming April 7-27.

The training is fully funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and is being co-undertaken with AQD, with resource persons also coming from Indonesia and Thailand. The training will be conducted in Tigbauan and Guimbal, Iloilo, with both the lectures and practical sessions to be handled by AQD.

The training aims to disseminate marine fish (including grouper) technologies that have been developed by various institutes and projects in the Asia-Pacific region. The training's main target groups are hatchery/nursery operators and technicians who are already involved in hatchery business/activities.

Deadline for submission of application for ACIAR funding is on March 17. All selected participants must be currently working in brackishwater or marine aquaculture sector as as farmer, hatchery/nursery/grow-out operator, technician or technical personnel. They

should have hands-on day-to-day works in the aquaculture production facility. Furthermore, private sector applicants will be given priority. Participants from the government or R&D sector should not be more than 30 year old, and no administrative staff will be considered under the funding.

The Philippines, as represented by the director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, is a member country of NACA and SEAFDEC.

For those unable to take part in this training course, take heart: the GOJ-funded marine fish hatchery training, a separate AQD activity, will push through.

AQD signs new pact with DAR

The new year brings with it new collaborators to AQD.

Last January 22, AQD signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), as represented by Regional Director Alexis Arsenal, at AQD's main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo.

The MOU will cover the development of different Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) in the province of Iloilo. DAR will assist in preparing the plan for the identified area; provide data relative to program implementation, beneficiaries and area; and provide other



financial, technical, social and physical infrastructure services. AQD on the other hand will assist DAR in providing technical assistance to agrarian reform beneficiaries; develop programs and enterprise development capabilities; and provide resource persons, trainers, technical specialists

and extension workers during project development and implementation.

The MOU will be in effect for 5 years, and will be supplemented by Letters of Understanding, which will document specific terms and conditions on the agreed projects.

AQD joins BSP's financial literacy campaign for OFWs

What other ventures are available for investments from OFWs?

TVDD head Dr. Clarissa Marte and other concerned agencies presented what they have to offer under the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Financial Literacy Campaign (FLC) for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their beneficiaries.

The activity, held last January 22, 23 and 25 in

the provinces of Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan, aims to promote savings and investments among OFWs and their beneficiaries by informing them of alternative opportunities of remittances, such as savings, investments in financial instruments, and other small and micro-business ventures.

Dr. Marte presented aquaculture-based business

opportunities, wherein she highlighted AQD's ABOT AquaNegosyo packages.

The conduct of FLCs in places where most marginalized OFWs come from was strongly encouraged by Pres. Gloria Arroyo.

Among the provinces identified were those in the Visayas region, particularly Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan.

Marfish workshop in Indonesia

The workshop on *Development of better management practices for marine finfish aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region* was held last November 7-10, 2007 in Hotel Indra Puri, Lampung, Indonesia.

The workshop was spearheaded by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and the Directorate General of Aquaculture of Indonesia in conjunction with the ACIAR-funded project on *Improved hatchery and grow-out technology for marine finfish aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region*. The workshop was held to develop processes for Better Management Practices (BMPs) for

the marine fish aquaculture sector.

AQD's Gwen Anuevo was one of the 60 participants who attended the workshop, which was also attended by representatives from Australia, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Norway, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

A review of the current status of marine fish aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region, including a description of the marine fish aquaculture sector and its constraints, was one of the workshop outputs.



RONPAKU meeting at AQD

RONPAKU (dissertation PhD) fellows of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) who are based in the Philippines attended a forum

discussing their scientific research initiatives so as to pave the way for possible networking and research collaboration.

The forum was held December 19 at AQD in Iloilo and was organized by the Philippine Department of Science & Technology with the Philippine Society of JSPS RONPAKU Fellows. Of the 40 who attended and/or made presentations, nine (9) were fellows from AQD who are mostly working on food and biotechnology. The rest are conducting research in energy & environment and socioeconomics.



JE SALAMIDA

Ulang training in Kalinga province

AQD responded to a training request from northern Philippines, even when faced with inclement weather and power outage.

BFS' Engr. Emiliano Aralar and Mr. Manuel Laron acted as resource persons in the *Special training course on freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out operations* last November 27-29, 2007 in Tabuk, Kalinga.

Eighteen participants, composed mainly of farmers, municipal agriculturists/



Clockwise from bottom left: Ms. Lois Fermin of BFAR-CAR explaining the objectives of the three-day training; the trainees during the artificial seawater formulation practicals; Engr. Aralar explaining the workings of the water sampler



M LARON



aquaculturists and extension workers, had their hands full as they had their lectures and practical sessions in broodstock development and management; hatchery, nursery and grow-out operations; artificial feed formulation of artificial seawater; and ecological aspects of *ulang* culture. A field trip to some LGU ponds and the Chico Dam was also organized.

By the time the three-day activity came to a close, the participants should be able to understand *ulang* hatchery operations and production of

postlarvae and analyze the conditions for the production of marketable-size *ulang* within a reasonable grow-out period.

The activity was requested by Dr. Rebecca Dang-awan, director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region (BFAR-CAR) in line with the directive for regional offices to have trained personnel who will be capable of operating *ulang* hatcheries to boost the production of seedstock and promote its culture nationwide.

— FROM THE REPORT OF MRR EGUIA

Dream project updates

Activities conducted under the dream project or the *Institutional capacity development for sustainable aquaculture (ICD-SA)* were in full swing for the last two months.



RP PAGADOR

For Capiz, the second session of the season-long training course on freshwater aquaculture was held December 4-5 in Dumarao and covered feeds and water quality. A sampling was conducted last January 18 showed that three cages stocked with tilapia had ABWs of 19.3, 30 and 47.6 grams; two cages with catfish had ABWs of 20.26 and 98; and



two cages with freshwater prawn had an average body weight of 0.33 grams. Stocks were fed twice daily with the appropriate feedrate.

For Guimaras, the fourth phase of the season-long training course on milkfish cage culture was held last January 29-30, which focused on harvest, post-harvest and marketing. The activity, held at the Igang Marine Station, had lectures and practical sessions on proper handling and icing of fish, value adding of aquaculture products, stock sampling, and marketing techniques.

ICD-SA seeks to transfer appropriate technologies and fishery resources management techniques.

Who's training at AQD?

Eighteen 6th year students from the School of Veterinary Medicine of the Aklan State University had a *Hands-on training on fish diseases* in two groups held last November 5-16 and December 3-14, 2007.



CV GENZOLA

The first group was composed of 12 students and the second, 6.

The training was conducted by the staff of Fish Health Section, headed by Dr. Gilda Lio-Po. The participants had their lectures and practical activities on bacterial, viral, parasitic and fungal diseases. There were also demos on PCR methods, slide preparation, shrimp postlarvae monitoring, electron microscopy and video showing on fish vaccination methods.

The students were able to discuss topics on disease prevention and control and study Module 2, 4 and 5 of AquaHealth Online. The students were also graded for their lectures (25%) and practical activities (75%).

These seniors had their clinical internship as part of their requirement to obtain the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

– CV GENZOLA

WVSU's eCOLE visits AQD

The West Visayas State University-Integrated Laboratory School had their Centennial Tour

eCOLE (ecological Socio-cultural Outbound Learning Experiences) last January 31-February 2, visiting different places in southern Iloilo, the province of Antique and Boracay.

One of the side trips was AQD, where the participants saw preserved and live marine organisms at Fishworld.

The 100 participants, composed of teachers, students and four facilitators headed by Ms. Ma. Corazon Lutero-Tan, visited these places to rediscover the pride of local culture. Moreover, their exposure to these places will help them acquire new knowledge and skills in their studies. – JE SALAMIDA



JE SALAMIDA

The tutorial Christmas party

All study, no party? No way!

No slouches in both learning and leisure departments, the tutorial class at Eugenio Torrento Memorial School at Parara, Tigbauan, Iloilo had fun at their Christmas party last December 16.

No party poopers, the parents of the pupils also decided to join the party so they contributed and brought food to share.



JB GONZAGA

The tutors contributed food and gifts that were given to each pupil. They advised the pupils to study hard and Enrico and Erika Ayson also gave their savings to buy prizes for the quiz bee contest that was conducted as part of the program.

The pupils presented a speech choir "The Grasshopper and the Ants" that was practiced for two sessions in their reading tutorial. The school principal, Mrs. Delia Tribunsay, gave certificates of appreciation to the volunteers and they were received by the tutors with amazement and a feeling of contentment.

This volunteer tutorial class was proposed in response to the plea of Grade V-Orchid adviser Mrs. Marlyn Temelo to the parents to teach their children to read and memorize the multiplication table.

The volunteer tutors are mostly members of the SEAFDEC/AQD Journal Club. Classes were scheduled every Sunday at 2:00-4:00 in the afternoon. The lessons focused on reading and spelling, multiplication and basic mathematics, and science.

The twelve committed volunteers (Christine T., Cheryl, Charlemagne, Jimi, Prince, Dianne Hope, Ellen Flor, Gwen, Zenith, Mae, Josette and Stephen) took turns in tutoring the class of 35 pupils, which started last August 26 until December 9.

The principal and the other teachers are hoping that the tutorial class will continue in 2008 and will include other grade levels.

If we embark on this task, we need more volunteers that will feel that helping the pupils is a way of helping the community. – JB GONZAGA

AQD's December gift-giving

AQD got into the holiday spirit of sharing with the gift-giving activity held at TMS last December 13.

One hundred-fifty beneficiaries from barangays Parara Sur, Parara Norte and Buyu-an in Tigbauan and Brgy.

Nanga from Guimbal received P200 worth of groceries.

The activity was facilitated by AQD's Journal Club, with proceeds coming from various fund-raising activities, including rummage sales, contributions from AQD

employees, and the comedy show held last December 5. AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo and Deputy Chief Dr. Hiroshi Ogata were on hand to share AQD's blessings.



JE SALAMIDA, JB GONZAGA

Contributions from AQD employees are always welcome!

Please send text separately from your JPEG photos (300 dpi or better). Devcom also uses 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 Section, Training and Information Division, Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo

Editors this issue: RP Guarin

Editorial consultants: MT Castaños, RF Agbayani

Thanks to our colleagues who provided facts, images and feedback! Happy new year!

Bibiday, Marcela and Neneng just want to be free

Three turtles have their new lease of freedom, thanks to their conscientious rescuers.

The first incident occurred in Guimbal, Iloilo, when a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), nicknamed Neneng was entangled in Mr. Pedro Basco's seine net or *sahid* last December 5.

Mr. Basco immediately reported the stranding to Guimbal Sangguniang Bayan Member Gregorio Genzola.

Neneng, who weighed around 100-120 kilograms



and measured 107 cm long and 100.5 wide, was tagged (tag code: PH8504) and released that day.

Marcela – an olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) – was rescued by Mr. Marcelo Baat Jr. in Parara Sur, Tigbauan, Iloilo. The turtle, which weighed about 20 kilos and measured 21.5 cm long and 22.75 cm wide, was ensnared in Mr. Baat's

pukot. It was tagged with the code PH 8505, then released last January 8 at the AQD seawall. At around 1:30 in the morning of January 23, another green sea turtle was trapped in the fish corral of Mr. Narciso Entusiasmo in Parara Sur, Tigbauan, Iloilo. Named Bibiday after Mr. Entusiasmo's granddaughter, the *pawikan* weighed around 50-60 kilograms and was about 38 inches long and 27.8 inches wide.

The incident was promptly reported to AQD's FishWorld for appropriate action.

At around 11 o'clock that morning, Bibiday (female tag code: PH 8506) was set free to the sea, right where she belonged.

(Clockwise from top) a tale of two Bibidays: Mr. Entusiasmo, with granddaughter and turtle; security was tight during Marcela's release; saying goodbye to Bibiday; tag party: FishWorld staffers wield out their measuring tapes and tags; it's not easy being (olive) green: Neneng, the subject of heavy petting from children and adults alike



Fishkill in Buyu-an

Heavy rains + pesticide spray = fish species meeting their maker.

Runoff water contaminated by pesticides from nearby ricefields and mango trees last January 14 was cited to have

caused the fish kills observed in Buyu-an river in Tigbauan.

Milkfish, mullet, seabass, scatfish and goby were just some of the fishes found floating in the water. Even ducks suffered a similar fate after feeding on the contaminated fish.

Buyu-an river, noted as a rich fishing ground, has had experienced previous fish kill incidents due to the same cause.



JE SALAMIDA