

# SEAFDEC AQD Matters

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

## AQD scientist honored by Japan



**A**QD scientist Dr. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos was honored by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) as a recipient of its *2009 Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers*.

The award-winning research work of Dr. Ramos was *Stock enhancement of*

*commercially important and threatened marine invertebrates (such as mud crab, abalone, giant clam, and angelwing clam) in tropical areas.*

MAFF began the award program in 2007 to recognize the contribution of young agricultural researchers to technological development for the improvement of food

security and the environment in developing countries.

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) supports this program and offers financial incentive to the winners.

The awarding ceremony will be on November 4 at the University of Tokyo, Japan.

## Milkfish cage culture training advances to Module 3

**M**ilkfish cage culture training in Brgy. San Antonio, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras advanced to Module 3 last August 13-14 at Roma Beach Resort. This training is part of the series titled *Season-long training course on milkfish cage culture - Phase 2*.

The two-day training covered topics on stock sampling, feed and feeding practices, and cage maintenance.

AQD scientists Dr. Mae Catacutan and Dr. Relicardo Coloso were the resource persons for aquafeed

preparation and feed & feeding practices respectively.

IMS staff Mr. Alex Babol on the other hand, was the resource person for stock sampling and cage maintenance.

Thirty fisherfolk attended the module.



Dr. Relicardo Coloso lectures on feed and feeding practices



Dr. Mae Catacutan (leftmost) teaches and demonstrates aquafeed preparation



Mr. Alex Babol lectures on stock sampling

## KSA dignitaries visit AQD

**D**r. Anwar Eissa Al-Sunaiher, Aquaculture Department Director of the Ministry of Agriculture of Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA); Mr. Baheej Mohammad Rasem, Fish Farming Center (FFC) Director of Jeddah, KSA were in AQD's

Tigbauan Main Station (TMS) last August 3-7.

Dr. Al-Sunaiher and Mr. Baheej were accompanied by Dr. Felix Ayson, a former AQD scientist and currently the Chief Technical Adviser of FAO. They visited AQD to learn about its various

research programs and to see its research facilities.

On their first day at TMS, they were briefed about AQD's research activities by RD head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson. Specialists on AQD's research programs namely Dr. Mae Catacutan (Nutrition

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Clockwise: Mr. Baheej Mohammad Rasem, Dr. Anwar Eissa Al-Sunaiher, and Dr. Felix Ayson discuss with RD head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson, TID head Mr. Renato Agbayani, AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo and Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma about future collaborations between AQD and FFC

and feed development), Dr. Gilda Lio-Po (Fish health), Dr. Relicardo Coloso (Marine fish), Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa (Mudcrab and shrimp domestication), and Ms. Ma. Rovilla Luhan (Seaweed strain improvement) were also present during the meeting.

After the briefing, they were toured to the hatcheries and laboratories.

The next day, the visitors met with AQD's top management to discuss future collaborations between AQD and FFC. After which, they visited the AQD library and were briefed about its collections and operation.

They also toured AQD's Dumangas Brackishwater



Dr. Relicardo Coloso (leftmost) and Dr. Gilda Lio-Po (rightmost) discuss AQD's research projects

Station and Igang Marine Station on the 3rd and 4th day of their visit respectively.

Lastly, they met with TVDD and TID officials to have an overview of the divisions' activities.

Presenter during the TVDD meeting was TVDD division head Dr. Clarissa Marte.

On the other hand, presentors during the TID meeting were TID head Mr. Renato Agbayani, Training section head Ms. Kaylin Corre, Development communication head Ms. Milagros Castaños, and Library & databanking services head Ms. Luisa Pacino.



Senior technician Ms. Bernardita Eullaran shows off the milkfish larvae raised at AQD's integrated hatchery



At the marine fish hatchery with associate researcher Ms. Ofelia Reyes



With Integrated mollusk program leader Ms. Milagros dela Peña looking over abalone hybrid cultured at AQD

## PBA cager and missionaries tour AQD

**F**ormer Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) player Mr. Rey Evangelista together with his family dropped by AQD to see AQD's museum (the FishWorld) and hatcheries last July 15.

Young missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter day saints, on the other hand, toured AQD last August 28.



Abalone hatchery staff Mr. Rafael Barrido (5th person from right) shows the missionaries the abalone broodstock



Seahorse hatchery research assistant Mr. Charlemagne Recente shows the missionaries the seahorses cultured at AQD



Mr. Rey Evangelista (rightmost at the back) and family with FishWorld staff Ms. Jocelyn Teves (rightmost) and Ms. Janelli Garibay (4th person from left)



The Evangelista family at the Integrated hatchery, abalone hatchery and marine fish hatchery





## AQD joins MAMARE...



IMS head Mr. Albert Gaitan during his talk on marine fish culture



BFS head Engr. Emiliano Aralar (right) entertains a visitor of the AQD booth

**A**QD joined the *Manila Aqua Marine and Aquatic Resources Exposition (MAMARE)* organized by Lotty Events Management and Agri-Aqua Network International Inc. It was held at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila last August 20-23 with



Former President Fidel Ramos (2nd from right) with AQD staff

the theme “Sustaining the Philippines as the crown jewel of marine biodiversity in the entire planet.”

The AQD booth was visited by no less than former President Fidel Ramos.

AQD’s technical resource persons during this 4-day event were Dr. Ma. Lourdes Aralar, Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia, Dr. Nerissa Salayo, Engr. Emiliano Aralar, Mr. Albert Gaitan, Ms. Grace Garcia, Mr. Ruel Eguia, Ms. Antonietta Evangelista, and Mr. Manuel Laron. Other AQD employees who helped during the exhibit were Dr. Luis Maria Garcia, Ms. Elma Africa, Ms. Diane Deauna,

Mr. Edison Pineda, Mr. Nelson de la Cruz, and Mr. Emerson Rivera.

On the third day, Mr. Gaitan presented a seminar on *Marine fish breeding, hatchery, and nursery operations*.

MAMARE was organized for the benefit of the ABS-CBN Foundation Bantay Kalikasan and Pola, Oriental Mindoro (which is known to be the center of marine biodiversity).

Participation at MAMARE enabled AQD to showcase its science based technologies, publications, technical assistance, training programs, and seedstock.

## ... and DOST Visayas S&T Fair

**A**QD participated in the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 6 *Visayas Science and Technology Fair* with the theme *Responding to global challenges through science and technology* last August 17-22 at SM City Bacolod.

The event aimed to promote public awareness on the critical role of science and technology (S&T) in national development.

Participation at DOST Visayas S&T Fair enabled



AQD to showcase its science-based technologies, publications, training programs, and other services.

## WiFi @ AQD

**T**o expand AQD’s internet access, a Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) antenna was installed at the rooftop of TMS dormitory last July 7.

It has an ideal coverage of 500 m radius.

The purposes of the WiFi installation are to: (1) give AQD trainees a 24/7 internet access during their stay at AQD and (2) generate

income through the offering of prepaid access cards to the AQD community. Subscribers will have internet access from 6 pm to 7 am during weekdays (so as not to hamper with the internet access of AQD offices) and full access during weekends. Fee of the prepaid access will be half of the current internet carriers’ rate.

It is targeted that the WiFi will be fully operational by October 2009. AQD’s computer network office earlier tested the set-up through free internet access tickets valid for July.

The WiFi is a D-link DWL-7700AP that supports a/b/g WiFi technology with a 12-dbi external antenna.



WiFi antenna at the dormitory rooftop

## Philhealth and SSS seminar

Upon AQD's invitation, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and Philippine Social Security System (SSS) conducted a seminar at the TID Conference room last July 16.

The topics discussed during the seminar were hospitalization benefits, loans, retirement benefits, maternity benefits/leaves, and aids. AQD employees were also informed about the latest policies, regulations and programs of SSS and Philhealth.

Resource persons of the seminar were Ms. Christine Geralo and Mr. Dex Belleza for PhilHealth and Mr. Ernesto Juayong Jr for SSS.



Ms. Christine Geralo and Mr. Dex Belleza of Philhealth; and Mr. Ernesto Juayong Jr of SSS



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AQD nurse Ms. Dorfra Tupas raises concerns during the open forum

## Echo seminars

AQD electrical engineer Engr. Hermoso Igcasan gave an echo seminar on the seminar he attended last July 29-31 at the University of the Philippines (UP), Diliman Quezon City entitled *Power transformer testing and maintenance* to concerned

Engineering section staff of TMS, DBS, and IMS. The echo seminar was held at the TID Conference room last August 25.

Senior technical assistant Ms. Dianne Hope Tormon on the other hand, echoed the training workshop that

she attended at UP Diliman, Quezon City entitled *Enhancing and measuring the social acceptability and use of Agrifishtechnology* last August 27 at the RD audio-visual room. Attendees of the echo seminar were from the Research Division.

## Retiree this August



"I would like to thank AQD for giving me the opportunity to be part of the AQD family."

*Ms. Elma Africa*  
Administrative assistant 3  
assigned at AQD's Manila office

Ms. Africa was MO's senior purchaser. Her other responsibilities were to facilitate visa of MO staff and foreign visitors and do personnel-related work such as attendance keeping. She retired last August 11, 2009. Good luck and God bless!!!

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