

SEAFDEC AQD Matters

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

HRD training course in the Philippines

AQD Senior Technical Assistants, Mr. Vincent Encena II and Ms. Dianne Hope Tormon, provided technical and logistic support during the training on abalone farming held at the Regional Fisheries Training Center (RFTC), Catbalogan Samar last September 28-October 2, 2009.

The training is part of the *Human resource development (HRD) on rural aquaculture* organized by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and RFTC in coordination with AQD and Ms. Jessica Muñoz, HRD Project Coordinator of the Philippines, under the SEAFDEC project entitled *HRD on poverty alleviation and food security by fisheries intervention in the ASEAN region*.

During the opening ceremony, RFTC Samar Director Mr. Ronnie Berida and RFTC Zamboanga Director Mr. Hadji Pendatun Talib discussed the rationale of the training course. Ms. Kaylin

The first two days of the training were spent on lectures focused on abalone culture, socio-economics and financial analysis.

On the third day, demonstration and hands-on sessions on abalone culture took place at Agotay Island in Daram, Samar. Identification of seaweeds was also included since it is the primary food source of abalone.

The last day was spent on recapitulation of the lectures and practical sessions.

Twenty-one participants (five from Zamboanga and 16 from Samar) attended the course.

In general, the trainees found the training satisfactory. According to Ms. Corre, the training would have been more beneficial if it was conducted in a rural fishery community setting whereby fisherfolk were organized, selected and taught aquaculture technology suitable for rural communities.

The venue, however, was not AQD's choice.

Corre, AQD Training Section Head, gave a message to the participants.



Counterclockwise: Participants and coordinators of the on-site HRD training course on rural aquaculture along with Samar State University-Mercedes Campus Dean Dr. Latib Abdurahman. Ms. DH Tormon lectures on *Business planning and management and financial analysis*. Mr. VC Encena demonstrates how to measure and weigh the abalone

AQD Chief meets office heads

AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo met with office heads at RD Audio Visual Room for the *Leveling of expectations* for 2010 on January 8.

At the assembly, the Chief discussed the accomplishments in the past year, acknowledging the contribution and cooperation of the senior staff in AQD's success.

Dr. Toledo said that 25 science articles were published last year. Seventeen of these are in ISI-CC covered science journals and seven are authored by senior staff still in active service. The rest are authored by researchers previously connected with AQD and using the SEAFDEC affiliation.

He also noted that AQD might be getting Php170

million budget from the government, 20 million higher than the last year's budget. At the start of his term in 2006, AQD had only Php100 million budget. He said he hopes to stabilize AQD's funding in the coming years.

Dr. Toledo reported that there is a Php10 million surplus from the budget last year that will be utilized for the recruitment of research staff,

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AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo presides over the assembly

and in upgrading facilities such as: freshwater support system, research ponds in Dumangas (although the research ponds will be augmented by the UPV facilities in Leganes), waste water treatment, desalination, and garbage segregation.

He also cited AQD's recent acquisition of the Minitab statistical software now installed at the Databank to assist researchers in data analysis.

The Chief enjoined the heads to learn by heart AQD's core values, goals and strategies. He also made a request for section heads, program leaders, and division heads to know the duties and responsibilities of their staff. He added that all

documents that are to be signed must conform to the policy of AQD and must be screened at the supervisor's level.

Moreover, he asked the HRMS to look into re-evaluating the performance of support staff in three ways: from the client, peers and supervisor.

He noted that the staffing structure of the department is almost complete. Out of the proposed 152 regular positions, 106 were already filled up by qualified personnel.

For RD, 46 out of 66 are already filled up, mostly facilities-based staff; TVDD has 12 out 24 positions filled up; TID has 5 remaining slots out of 15; AFD has 21

positions filled up out of 32; and for the management group, all positions are filled (10 out of 10).

Finally, the assembly was informed that for this year, AQD is looking forward to implementing its Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy, pursue the International Standard Organization (ISO) certification and the significant increase in scientific publications.

A follow-up meeting of senior staff with the Chief was made on January 21 with attendance monitoring and publication requirement for senior RD and TVDD staff as the agenda. As a result, the Chief created an ad hoc committee on January 22 to review existing policies on attendance monitoring.



Some of the AQD Senior staff present



AQD joins the East Asian seas congress...

AQD staff actively participated in two recent international conferences.

The first was the East Asian seas congress with the theme "Partnership at work: local implementation and good practices" held last November 23-27 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila.

This was attended by AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo and TVDD OIC Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia.

TID Head Mr. Renato Agbayani and Socioeconomics Section Head Dr. Nerissa Salayo, on the other hand, presented papers entitled *Institutional capacity development for sustainable aquaculture: its role in integrated coastal zone management* and *Small time, big numbers, small attention, big task: the role of small-scale aquaculture in food security and livelihood in Southeast Asia*, respectively.

The event was organized by Partnership in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the Philippine Government.

The congress featured several events, including four keynote presentations and 28 thematic workshops and seminars.

The key issue discussed during the conference includes ocean policy and legislation in relation to the impacts of climate change on coastal and ocean areas.

On the final day of the event, delegates participated in field visits to integrated coastal management sites.

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...Asian Pacific aquaculture conference in Malaysia

AQD's Demonstration and Packaging Section Head, Ms. Jocelyn Ladja, participated as presenter in the Asian Pacific Aquaculture Conference with the theme "*Sustainable aquaculture and quality seafood for all*" held at Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last November 3-6.

Ms. Ladja presented her paper entitled "*Nursery culture of Asian Seabass Lates calcarifer in cages in pond: evaluation of diets for growth, survival, protein efficiency and feed conversion ratios*".

The conference was hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based Industries and organized by the



Ms. Jocelyn Ladja during the APA conference at Putra World Trade Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Asian Pacific Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society, Malaysia Fisheries Society and University Putra Malaysia.

It featured 20 technical sessions which includes marketing and trade that focused on issues pertaining to certification and supply chain.

Other sessions tackled aspects of production like breeding and genetics, nutrition, and health for marine

finfish, marine shrimp, etc.

Highlight of the conference is the Malaysian Farmers' Day that was held on November 5 with technical presentations from international experts, successful farmers, recognized technicians and other professionals.

Ms. Ladja's participation was supported by AQD.

AQD holds Minitab training

AQD organized a Minitab training for AQD staff at the TID conference room last December 3-4, 2009 to enhance the capacity of researchers in data analysis. The activity was facilitated by AQD's Library and Data Banking Services Section.

The topics discussed include introduction to Minitab and basic statistics. Participants were given practical exercises.

Those who have laptops availed of a trial copy of the software which was installed

ahead of the scheduled training.

The training is part of the package offered in the purchase of two Perpetual Single-User Minitab 15 Statistical Softwares.

One of the softwares was installed at

Databank while the other is for BFS and MO.

Resource speakers of the training were Eric Bergara and EJ Bergara from Intersoft Inc provider of the software.



ICD-SA mini- workshop

At the start of the year, January 12, all the team members of the *Institutional capacity development for sustainable aquaculture* (ICD-SA) project were gathered at the TID Conference Room.

In his opening remarks, AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo hoped that the ICD-SA will expand to other provinces so that poor communities may benefit from AQD technologies. He also

commended the efforts of Mr. Renato Agbayani, TID Head and ICD-SA project leader.



A total of 41 participants attended the ICD-SA mini-workshop including AQD staff, representatives from partner stakeholders and NGOs.

Ms. Iris Gulanes and Mr. Rey Ambao attended for Taytay sa Kauswagan Inc. (TSKI), Ms. Joelyn Biag for Sentro ha Pagpauwag ha Pangabuhi Inc. (SPPI), and Ms. Evelyn Vista for Action for Community Empowerment Inc. (ACE).

Also present were Ms. Iris Martizano of Gata Daku Multi-purpose Cooperative, Dumarao fisherfolk Mr. Candelario Ortiz and Mr. Virgilio Hapitan, Guimaras fisherfolk Mr. Teofilo Cloro and Mr. Bonifacio Ganea, and Ms. Lydia Narca of Bayog Valley Farmer's Multi-purpose Cooperative.

At the workshop, the participants were grouped into four to review, consolidate and integrate the information and lessons that they have learned from previous years.

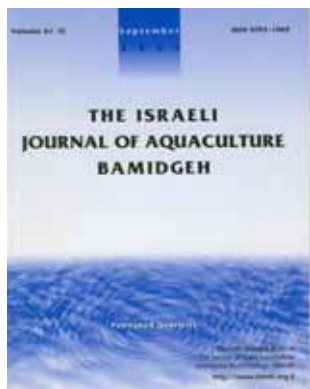
For ICD-SA Misamis Occidental, two of their project sites are now fully operational. The fisherfolk decided to give more attention to feeding management in order to improve and diversify marine fish production.

Dumarao fisherfolk are now looking forward to granting of territorial use rights in fisheries (TURF) by the local government unit (LGU).

Meanwhile, Guimaras fisherfolk, are going to collaborate with TSKI on financial and technical assistance needed for their cooperative.

Finally, ICD-SA Northern Samar reported that they have successfully established mudcrab nursery demo sites in four municipalities. They also established effective partnerships among research institutes, LGUs, NGOs, line agencies & community-based organizations.

New publication



Volume 61, No. 3 of the Israeli Journal of Aquaculture Bamidgh

This volume contains six reviews and four papers that were presented at SEAFDEC's *International workshop on emerging fish diseases in Asia* that was held last December 6-7, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr. Gilda Lio-Po, AQD's Scientist Emeritus, serves as guest editor of this volume.

Fish for the People 2020

Sustainable fisheries for food security towards 2020 is an event for the fisheries policy makers, representatives from national and international organizations, private sector and relevant fisheries stakeholders to discuss the recent state of fishery resources and emerging fisheries related-issues.

"Fish for the people 2020" conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from June 13-17, 2011. It is hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. The conference is co-organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This conference aims to further address the priority issues that hinder the sustainable contribution from fisheries to food security of the region, and to come up with the policy framework and guiding principles in achieving the sustainable fisheries for food security for the coming decades.

AQD's new faces

New faces are a-plenty. Let us welcome and know them one by one!



Marjorie T. Cañada is an Administrative Assistant 1 at the Office of the Chief (OC). She is a BS Business Administration (Marketing) graduate from UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo.



May-ann B. Balagasay joins the Human Resource Management Section (HRMS) as Administrative Assistant 1. She is a BA Broadcast Communication/Psychology graduate from UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo.



Sunshine Mae B. Bonitillo is a BA Psychology graduate from UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo. She is assigned at HRMS as Administrative Assistant 1.



Ruth T. Portalibre finished her BS degree in Psychology from the University of San Agustin, Iloilo. She is assigned at HRMS as Administrative Assistant 1.



Daryl L. Superio is assigned as Information Assistant at the Library and Data Banking Services Section. He earned his Bachelor degree in Library and Information Science *cum laude* from Central Philippines University, Iloilo City



Josephine Dianne L. Deauna is a Technical Assistant at the Binangonan Freshwater Station (BFS). She earned her BS degree in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from University of the Philippines Diliman.



Gelyn K. Faigani earned her BS degree in Development Communication *cum laude* from West Visayas State University, Iloilo City. She is assigned as Information Assistant at Development Communication Section.



Haydee Rose B. Dumaran joins the RD-Diagnostic Services as Technical Assistant. She is a BS Chemistry graduate from UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo.



Spica Rose M. Novilla is an Information Assistant at Development Communication Section. She is a BA Broadcast Communication graduate from UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo.

AQD Chief invites UPV officials to special dinner

To strengthen ties with the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo invited UPV officials to a special dinner last January 8 at AQD's Executive House.

UPV was represented by Dr. Joy Lizada, Dr. Carlos Baylon, Dr. Alice Ferrer, Prof. Nieves Toledo and Dr. S.R. Luzette Teruel. AQD heads of offices were also present.



AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo (above) welcomes the UPV officials to the party



Panaw Pawikan 2009

Thousands of us will miss Uriel and Antiqua at FishWorld, but it is best for these two turtles to be back at sea. Uriel is a 12-yr old male hawksbill which was hatched at the beach in Boracay in 1997 and had been raised as a pet for 8 years by Leonora Gelito and brought to FishWorld in 2005. Antiqua is a female green turtle with many large skin tumors, caught off San Jose, Antique in February 2009 and donated to FishWorld by Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Vicente Sardina. The tumors were surgically removed by AQD Veterinarian Delia Tubo over several months.

On 14 December 2009, Uriel and Antiqua were taken by van to Siraan Springs, and by two outrigger boats to Nogas Island. At the sandy beach, Antiqua refused to move and was finally carried into the seagrass bed, from where she quickly swam into the blue sea. I imagine Antiqua was just so happy to be at sea, she did not even look back. From the beach, Uriel waddled straight into the seagrass bed, like an eager child, and lingered there, picking stuff (food?) from the bottom, apparently exploring. Uriel circled back to me several times and had to be pushed past thigh-deep water. Last time we looked, Uriel was getting close to the blue water.



Panaw Pawikan was arranged with the Municipality of Aniniy, Antique. Vice-Mayor Amado Rubite and Mayor Rene Pollicar provided logistic support, including lunch at their famous Siraan Springs Resort. Vic Sardina's staff bade Uriel and Antiqua goodbye on behalf of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Bantay Dagat led by Herman Arcilla helped transport the turtles, and have promised to monitor possible recapture. We the turtle caregivers at FishWorld hope Uriel and Antiqua stay healthy and clear of fishing gears forever.

-TBagarinao