



AQD Matters

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AQD hosts ASEM Workshop on Education and Training

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Aquaculture Platform held its Workshop #4 on Education and Training (E&T) at the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines, from 24 to 27 September. Thirty participants came from Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, China, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. Many participants were the Who's Who in aquaculture education and research. (Prof. Patrick Sorgeloos, AQD's friend of 30 years, was whisked right away by the University of Gent 'Mafia').

The general objectives of the ASEM Workshops are:

- To formulate very specific recommendations (for the European Commission) on future directions in research, trade and production between Asia and Europe
- To forge new alliances or reinforce existing ones between the European Union and Asian partners for joint research, trade policies, and production methods

The E&T Workshop aimed to determine future actions to improve the interaction and networking between Asia and Europe with respect to aquaculture education and training. On the first day, the participants talked about the advances in E&T in the two regions and got some sense of the strengths and opportunities. Margaret Eleftheriou described the new imperatives in European education, including the Erasmus Mundus and the Bologna process.

Indeed, the wealth of aquaculture courses and information that were reported to be available, especially on the internet, was dizzying. And so were the acronyms—AquaTT, AquaTnet, AquaLabs, AquaLex, WAVE, MARINVEST, ORION, MAqFish, WebCT, LarvalBase, FishBase, etc.

On the second day, the Workshop discussed ways for universities and international organizations in Asia and Europe to work better to improve aquaculture E&T. It was agreed that ASEM cooperation in E&T would be more immediately fruitful if focused initially on formal academic courses at the postgraduate level. Existing informal cooperation and exchanges between professors and students from Asian and European institutions may be expanded and formalized into an ASEM-based network. The workshop identified the topics of common concern that should be emphasized in formal academic and informal training courses to make them more relevant to the needs of the aquaculture sector.

Finally, the Workshop formulated specific 'doable' recommendations for consideration by the European Commission. These recommendations and the other documents and output of the E&T Workshop will be posted at www.asemaquaculture.org for the participants' use.

AQD Chief Rolando Platon presented the AQD initiatives and programs in aquaculture training and information. AQD turned out a warm welcome and efficient hosting facilities and services for the ASEM E&T Workshop. Good job!





AQD Chief Rolando Platon, AQD Deputy Chief Koichi Okuzawa, and ASEM Management Committee members Patrick Sorgeloos and Margaret Eleftheriou welcome participants during the opening of the Workshop



Dr. Kim Jauncey makes a presentation about the Institute of Aquaculture in the University of Stirling and the WebCT



Chhouk Borin of Cambodia and Bernd Ueberschaer of Germany



Hiroshi Fushimi and Hisashi Kurokura of Japan and Kim Jauncey of Scotland



Jean Dhont and Patrick Sorgeloos of Belgium



Laszlo Stundl of Hungary and Daniel Montero of Spain



Helen Vicente of the Philippines and Jiang Zengji of China



Tereso Abella of the Philippines and Nguyen Anh Tuan of Vietnam



Margaret Eleftheriou of Greece and AQD's Jurgene Primavera (absent) were the Workshop Coordinators



Paul Teng of Singapore, and Jean-Claude Guary of France



Le Thanh Luu of Vietnam



Rafael Guerrero and Romeo Fortes of the Philippines



Paul Teng talks about teaching innovation and entrepreneurship



Mohamed Shariff makes a strong case for an MSc in Fish Health



Patrick White describes the project with DA-BFAR on the development of web-based aquaculture courses



David Murphy talks about web-based aquaculture databases, courses, networks



Ellen Flor shows Ueberschaer, Borin, Stundl, and Shariff around AQD



Sena De Silva of Australia, Teodora Bagarinao, GildaLio-Po, and Celia Lavilla-Pitogo of the Philippines



The TID staff gave ASEM their best



... they had good food and tinikling...



Folk dancers from Kinaadman Elementary School



Dr. Okuzawa plays host to Japanese visitors

AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Koichi Okuzawa has been kept busy by Japanese and other visitors recently. On 23 September, just before the ASEM Workshop, he hosted a dinner for Professor Hisashi Kurokura of the University of Tokyo and Dr. Hiroshi Fushimi of Fukuyama University, together with AQD Chief Dr. Rolando Platon. On 27 September, just after the ASEM Workshop, Dr. Okuzawa hosted a dinner for Prof. Mohamed Shariff of the Universiti Putra Malaysia, together with AQD's Fish Health Team led by Dr. Celia Lavilla-Pitogo.

Earlier, Dr. Okuzawa had other visitors. On 19 September, Dr. Kazuya Nagasawa, former Program Leader of the Regional Fish Diseases Program of the Government of Japan-Trust Fund came back to AQD briefly (he missed us already!!). Dr. Nagasawa (ornatus@hiroshima-u.ac.jp) is now Professor of Aquaculture, Department of Bioresource Science and Technology, Graduate School of Biosphere Science, Hiroshima University.

On 3 August, Dr. Okuzawa, Dr. Platon, Research Head Wilfredo Yap, and JIRCAS Scientist Dr. Ikunari Kiryu met with three visitors at AQD: Dr. Satoru Miyata, JIRCAS Southeast Asia Representative, Dr. Nobuaki Arai, Associate Professor at Kyoto University, and Dr. Nguyen Thanh Phuong, Dean of the College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Can Tho University, Vietnam. The meeting discussed future collaboration, especially in freshwater rural aquaculture. The visitors made a presentation about telemetry of the giant Mekong River catfish, and about the farming of the giant fresh water prawn in Vietnam. The visitors toured the AQD hatcheries and laboratories in Tigbauan, and the shrimp ponds and mud crab pens at the Dumangas Brackishwater Station.



CrabSeed trainees learn from Eduard Rodriguez about crab nursery in ponds

CrabSeed training on course

The fifth training course on Crab Seed Production opened on 14 September with 10 participants — five from the Philippines and one each from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, and Federated State of Micronesia. The course covers lectures and practical work on the mudcrab biology, broodstock management, plankton culture, larval rearing, harvest, packing and transport of megalopas, pond preparation, nursery, farming in pens in mangroves, health management, and hatchery engineering, and economics. The course ends 13 October.

Mr. Gong and Dr. Weng

One of the participants in the CrabSeed course is Mr. Gong Yong Sheng, 41, Associate Professor at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center in Wuxi, China. His training at AQD is part of a staff exchange agreement with FFRC started in 2002. Earlier, AQD Geneticist Dr. Weng Eguia went to Shanghai and Wuxi to work with counterparts there.



Gong Yong Sheng from Wuxi, China gets muddy in Dumangas



Dr. Okuzawa, Dr. Kiryu, and Steve Garibay show Dr. Nguyen Thanh Phuong, Dr. Nobuaki Arai, and Dr. Satoru Miyata around AQD's hatcheries

AQUAHEALTH ONLINE
An eLearning Course on Principles of Health Management in Aquaculture

Why eLearning?
E-learning is a practical way to acquire knowledge. A learner only needs a computer and an internet access to communicate with highly qualified teachers or with fellow learners. This e-learning technology provides information and communication technology in more accessible to SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department in collaboration with the University of the Philippines Open University.

How is it conducted?
AquaHealth Online runs for 16 weeks. Learners are provided a course guide and a CD-ROM at the start of the course. The discussion sections on the internet provided over by a designated Specialist of a particular Module. The learner uses a password to enter a secure learning environment.

What does AquaHealth Online cover?
It covers up-to-date knowledge on fish and crustacean diseases, the latest techniques, and the tried and tested methods of disease prevention and control. Various senior research staff of SEAFDEC, with PhD degrees, authored the lecture modules of the course.

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is on

The fourth session of the distance learning course, Principles of Health Management in Aquaculture or AquaHealth Online started 1 August and will run until end of December 2005. This course has 12 modules taught by AQD Scientists and colleagues in Taiwan and Japan; the Course Officer is Dr. Celia Lavilla-Pitogo.

This year, there are 22 e-learners (8 women and 14 men) from 11 countries. Nine participants from the governments of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam are funded by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC's Special Five-Year Program on the Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security. The other e-learners are from England (1), Malta (1), Madagascar (1), Philippines (4). Six of AQD's young researchers are also taking the course.

CM Genzola

AQD attends 4th national e-learning conference

Four of us from SEAFDEC/AQD attended the 4th National eLearning Conference at the University of Santo Tomas last 25-26 August—Training Specialist Teresa Mallare, Systems Administrator Jezreel Gebucion, Fish Health Specialist Eleonor Tendencia, and myself, assigned to assist elearners in AquaHealth Online.

Held at UST's Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, the conference was attended by hundreds of teachers, students, researchers, trainers, and business people. The theme was *eLearning: promoting creative ICT use*. Some speakers talked about applications of a blended learning strategy, technical support skills transfer, and the impact of hybrid instruction on students' academic performance. I learned about the importance and the different aspects and uses of information and communications technology, especially in education. Online courses are now offered by several universities including UP, La Salle, Ateneo, UE and UST. I learned about the simple Virtual Learning Environment System for online graduate studies, about collaborative web-based activities that ensure active student participation online. I learned about the creation and use of simulation games for mobile phones. Then there is Textula poetry (1 quatrain that rhymes, about any subject), submitted by the public through mobile phones. UP has promoted, compiled, and published Textula to encourage the poetic talents of Filipinos in the midst of modern technology.

The Conference was really very informative, linking me to the world and the possibilities that go with ICT use.

CM Genzola

Mangrove Code is now available

After months of off-and-on work, the *Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Mangrove Ecosystems for Aquaculture in Southeast Asia* has come off the press. For copies, email to sales@aqd.seafdec.org.ph.

This Code contains desiderata and guidelines articulated by Country Representatives and other mangrove stakeholders during the Regional Technical Consultation in Tagbilaran City on 23-25 August 2004. The desiderata were elaborated with principles, definitions, and examples by TU Bagarinao and JH Primavera. The Code is intended primarily for governments, but can also be used by the education and research sector, the business sector, and by the local communities living in the mangroves.



Flyers that sell AQD

AQD provides a variety of services and products for aquaculture. Most of these are rather poorly advertised and thus not well known to the potential clients.

Two flyers have been released that advertise some of AQD's products and services. *Aquaculture Publications* is a list of extension and laboratory manuals, books, and proceedings for sale. The *Laboratory Facilities for Advanced Aquaculture Technologies* is a pictorial of special equipment that may be made available to users for a fee.



EC-CAMS on the home stretch, meets in Nha Trang

After a variety of research studies, mainly in Aklan, the SEAFDEC/AQD mud crab project funded by the European Commission will end in November 2005. The European Commission—Culture and Management of *Scylla* spp. (EC-CAMS) project is undertaken by AQD and three other institutions — the University of Wales Bangor, the University of Gent, and Can Tho University in Vietnam.

A final coordination meeting was held in Nha Trang, Vietnam from 1 to 6 August, attended by AQD researchers Jurgenne Primavera, Emilia Qunitio, Fe Estepa, Celia Pitogo, and Eduard Rodriguez, together the other members of the EC-CAMS project. The group evaluated the studies implemented under the project. They also prescreened the papers presented at the International Workshop on Culture, Fisheries, and Stock Enhancement of Portunid Crabs held 20-22 January 2005 in Iloilo City for submission to the journal *Aquaculture Research*. Accepted papers shall be published in a special issue of the journal. The group also discussed the new proposal for INCO-Dev grant under the European Commission, involving the same partners but with four more institutions.

Nha Trang has six miles of prime beach and is considered the best seaside resort in Vietnam. Daily meetings were held to read, edit, and revise manuscripts, but these were not a chore under the resort conditions. During breaks, the group visited the Institute of Oceanographic Science, Technology, and Marine Ecology (OSTME) and the Research Institute for Aquaculture No. 3 (RIA 3). OSTME houses a collection of live and preserved aquatic animals. RIA 3 was established by the Ministry of Fisheries in 1984 and undertakes research and disseminates technologies for seed production of various aquatic animals, grow-out, fishing, processing, and protection of aquatic resources.

ET Qunitio



EC-CAMS members with Dr. Nguyen Thi Xuan, Deputy Director of RIA 3



AQD researchers with Mathieu Wille of University of Gent at the Di Tich Thap Ba Ponagar Temple



EC-CAMS members at the Institute of Oceanographic Science, Technology and Marine Ecology

AQD at SOM — AMAF + 3

The 27th Summit of Ministers — ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the 5th Meeting of AMAF + 3 was held at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, from 26 to 30 September 2005. Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture and Forestry (which include fisheries and aquaculture) of the 10 Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), plus Japan, China, and Korea (+3) conducted a series of closed-door meetings together with delegates from international research and development organizations. Dr. Yasuhisa Kato and Mr. Robert Lee of the Secretariat based in Bangkok represented SEAFDEC at the meetings. SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Rolando Platon also attended some of the sessions. Vice President Noli de Castro formally opened the Summit.

A trade exhibit was held outside the sessions. It was formally opened by Secretary Domingo Panganiban of the Department of Agriculture with his gracious wife. AQD's booth showcased the various departments of SEAFDEC and the array of collaborative projects with ASEAN. AQD publications were distributed to visitors. Dr. Kato provided Secretariat publications for display and give-away. Each Minister was given a special gift bag of SEAFDEC publications in print and CDs. The Vice President toured the exhibits and was also given a SEAFDEC gift bag.

MLC Aralar



Dr. Ma. Lourdes Cuvin-Aralar, Head of AQD's Binangona Freshwater Station, has grown into her new role as AQD representative in a variety of meetings, fairs, and exhibits



AQD Chief Dr. Rolando Platon with SEAFDEC Advisor Dr. Yasuhisa Kato (right) and Dr. William Padolina, Deputy Executive Director of the International Rice Research Institute (left)



Sec. Domingo Panganiban of the Department of Agriculture visits AQD's booth



... so did Vice-President Noli de Castro, who opened the Summit

