

SEAFDEC AQD Matters

Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD), Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines



(L-R) AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson, AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma, DA-BFAR's Mr. Nelson Lopez and Dr. Jonathan Dickson (also the SEAFDEC National Coordinator for the Philippines), and Deputy director Dr. Cesario Pagdilao of DOST-PCAARRD

AQD strategizes for 2013

It is very important for AQD to set its medium-term development (2012-2016) plans," noted AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson during AQD's *Review and planning meeting* held 24-26 September at its main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines. "There would be no threat to AQD's existence in the future if we can contribute to the food security and livelihood programs of SEAFDEC member-countries." In addition to 52 senior AQD staff, in attendance were three officials

from DA-BFAR and DOST-PCAARRD, the two government institutions that AQD closely work with in the host country.

AQD program leaders presented the accomplishments of AQD's thematic programs and moderated the workshops that come up with the plans for 2013 to 2016. The rest of AQD's programs and activities were presented as well: GOJ-TF funded projects; technical assistance mechanisms for entrepreneurs and communities; training and information; and administration and finance.

Some of the concerns at the meeting, and which would be included in AQD's to-do list, are: (1) impact assessment of AQD programs and activities; (2) documentation of success stories; and (3) strengthening collaboration with funding agencies.

DA-BFAR and DOST-PCAARRD also contributed to the discussions. Mr. Nelson Lopez, BFAR's chief of Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Division, introduced their "lying-in concept" or breeding facilities for marine species (such as snapper, rabbitfish, and milkfish) and their national aquasilviculture program. AQD could provide technical

assistance especially in the former since this entails the technology for multi-species marine fish hatchery that AQD is noted for. Dr. Jonathan Dickson, also of BFAR and the SEAFDEC National Coordinator for the Philippines, emphasized that enhancing the collaboration between AQD and BFAR would augur well for the country. He also reiterated that AQD needs to "justify the costs-and-benefits of the programs that will be implemented and to give valuation to all activities."

PCAARRD executive director Dr. Cesario Pagdilao, on the other hand, highlighted the collaborative projects of DOST and AQD in shrimp, milkfish, mud crab, and seaweeds. Likewise, he presented their "smart aquaculture concept" which has a component on developing databases (eg. environment parameters vis-à-vis culture conditions) that can easily be used by fishfarmers. AQD could support this project since it has almost 40 years of R&D on economically important commodities. Dr. Pagdilao also suggested that AQD "must consider the market value of each commodity in planning research projects to ensure the benefit to stakeholders".



AQD program leaders presented the accomplishment and plans of AQD's thematic programs: (1) meeting economic and social challenges in aquaculture, (2) producing quality seeds, (3) promoting healthy and wholesome aquaculture, (4) maintaining environment integrity through responsible aquaculture, (5) adapting to climate change

External reviewers visit AQD

A team of external reviewers was commissioned to conduct the third review of SEAFDEC and its departments, including AQD. This is to assess the continued relevance of SEAFDEC in Southeast Asia, vis-à-vis its role, function and activities; to evaluate its operations and financial management. This review process is also in response to a directive given by the SEAFDEC Council during its 2012 meeting in Myanmar.

The AQD review was held 18 to 20 September, with two reviewers – Mr. Hla Win of Myanmar and Dr. Le Thanh Luu of Vietnam – in talks with AQD Chief Dr. FG Ayson and the heads of AQD’s four divisions. In addition to AQD’s main station in Iloilo, the reviewers also visited the three other stations and the Manila Office to talk with project leaders.

The reviewers were impressed, and Mr. Hla Win later emailed, expressing his “sincere thanks to the Chief and staff for a perfect arrangement, comprehensive information and, of course,



(L-R) AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson with Ms. Virgilla Sulit of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and reviewer Mr. Hla Win; reviewers Dr. Luu and Mr. Win at the seaweed laboratory

warm hospitality. Apart from (the) successful functions of AQD, I noticed the transparency (that you promised at your first address to AQD) and (the) reciprocity (or) the close relationship between you and

your staff and among them as well...Keep going on... Last but not least, I am grateful for the AQD publications which are essential to my dissemination and promotion of (aquaculture) in Myanmar...”

Expert meetings and training

(1) climate change workshop in China

AQD scientist Dr. Helen Marcial participated in the *China-ASEAN training workshop on aquaculture and climate change* held 6-25 September in Wuxi, China.

The training included lectures on the adaptation and mitigation strategies of different countries; and tours to China’s largest mangrove reserve (Bepu, Beihai), pond recirculating systems, wetland parks, and food processing plants.

Dr. Marcial joined 23 other researchers and fishery officers coming from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and ASEAN member countries.



Dr. Helen Marcial (in orange) with other participants visit wetland park

(2) aquaculture conference in Czech Republic

Four AQD scientists participated in the *Aqua 2012* held 1-5 September in Prague, Czech Republic. The conference was organized by the European Aquaculture Society, World Aquaculture Society, among others.

The papers presented by AQD include: (1) *Cage culture at low stocking densities of Litopenaeus vannamei in a freshwater eutrophic lake without artificial feeding* by Dr. Ma. Lourdes Aralar whose trip was funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR); (2) *Establishment of a vaccination regimen for the prevention of viral nervous necrosis (VNN) in Asian seabass*

Lates calcarifer broodfish by Dr. Rolando Pakingking Jr. whose travel was funded by AQD and the Government of Japan Trust Fund (GOJ-TF); (3) *Effect of different salinities on the mortality and viral load of Penaeus monodon experimentally infected with white spot syndrome virus*

(WSSV) by Ms. Eleonor Tendencia whose trip was also funded by GOJ-TF; and (4) *Dietary protein and lipid requirements of milkfish (Chanos chanos) in a practical feed containing defatted soybean meal* by Dr. Relicardo Coloso whose travel was funded by United Soybean Board (USB).



Clockwise: (1) AQD scientists Dr. Ma. Lourdes Aralar, Dr. Relicardo Coloso, and Dr. Rolando Pakingking Jr., (2) Dr. RV Pakingking moderates the session on immunology, (3) Dr. MLC Aralar with Dr. Ahlmosen of King Faisal University

(3) fisheries conference in Tanzania

AQD researcher Ms. Didi Baticados presented her paper on *Techno-transfer of mud crab nursery in ponds: its socio-economic impact on small-scale mud crab producers in Northern Samar, Philippines* during the 16th Biennial conference of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade 2012 held 16-20 July at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

She noted that the mud crab nursery technology is a viable



Ms. Didi Baticados with Dr. Robert Pomeroy of the University of Connecticut; and with other participants

enterprise for it can provide additional income of about P 14,318 (US\$ 340; Php 42.00

= US\$ 1) in six months in a 200 square meter pond.

(4) ASEAN meeting in Makati City

AQD training and information head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson attended the ASEAN Foundation's focus group discussion (FGD) on 21 September in Makati City.

Dr. Ayson joined the 21 participants who reviewed two ASEAN projects: (1) *Promotion of the one village, one fisheries products (FOVOP) system* to improve the livelihood of fisheries communities in ASEAN region; and (2) *Development of productivity specialists – capacity building for ASEAN managers*.

According to ASEAN Foundation, suggestions at the FGD included focusing on post-harvest equipment; more capacity building projects especially for the youth; and the



Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson (rightmost) with the other participants

use of social media to increase awareness about ASEAN activities and their impact to society.

It is to be noted that, in 2009, AQD conducted a trainors' training and published a training handbook on rural

aquaculture as part of the ASEAN Foundation's project on "Human resource development on poverty alleviation and food security by fisheries intervention in the ASEAN region" funded by the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund.

Discussion on fishfarmers' welfare

AQD hosted the *International conference on fisheries and globalization* (ICFG) that was held at AQD's main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo from 19 to 21 September.

The three-day conference gathered 32 international organizations from 15 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to analyze the global small-scale fisheries and recommend strategies to promote and protect fish farmers' welfare worldwide.

"AQD is happy to host this meeting," AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson said in his welcome remarks. "Developing sustainable technologies suitable for small scale farmers is one of the major programs of AQD. The fisherfolk and small-scale farmers are our stakeholders since they play an important role in providing food for the increasing human population."

At the end of the conference, the delegates adopted a declaration that enumerates the key problems facing small-scale fisherfolk and their recommendations for the realization of sustainable fisheries.



Photo by IBON INTERNATIONAL



The participants of the *International conference on fisheries and globalization*. AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson (left) welcomes the participants

The conference was organized by People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty, IBON International, Pamalakaya, and Fisheries & Marine Environment Research Institute Inc.

Study tours @ AQD

AQD welcomed various groups for a study tour of its facilities, laboratories and hatcheries.

The Partnership for Development Assistance in the Philippines Inc. (PDAP) brought 42 participants coming from Surigao del Sur and Norte to AQD from 10 to 12 September as a part of their

Seaweed study tour project. The participants were composed of representatives from local government units, people's organizations and community organizations. AQD experts apprised them of the recent mariculture technologies developed by AQD on seaweed, mud crab, sandfish and abalone. In addition to AQD's Tigbauan

Main Station (TMS), the group also toured Igang Marine Station and Dumangas Brackishwater Station.

On the same day, Mr. Abhijat Tanna, a client of AQD's ABOT (agree-build-operate-transfer) AquaNegosyo, toured TMS facilities. Mr. Tanna's interest is in seabass culture.



(L-R): PDAP group listens to the orientation of Mr. Michael Rey Burlas and Ms. Ofelia Reyes at mud crab and marine fish hatchery, respectively; and on their way to AQD's Igang Marine Station

It's good to know your SSS benefits

On 12 September, SEAFDEC/ AQD organized the *Social Security System (SSS) refresher seminar* at AQD's main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo.

Mr. Jose Rollen Husmalaga, SSS corporate account officer, explained to a good number of AQD staff the benefits they can get such as retirement, hospitalization, disability, among others. He also discussed the investment policies on loans and other programs.



Disseminating R&D thru mass media

AQD's research on mud crab was featured in *Malaya Business Insight* with five articles written by Mr. Paul Icamina appearing in the 21 and 28 September issues.

Previously, *Malaya* also covered AQD's abalone & seahorse hatcheries and vaccine for VNN (viral nervous necrosis).

View the Malaya article at: <http://www.malaya.com.ph/index.php/special-features/agriculture>.



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