

SEAFDEC AQD Matters

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

AQD takes part in review / planning meetings in Thailand

AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson, along with Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma, and Ms. Belen Acosta (special departmental coordinator) attended the 2013 program review / meeting on the SEAFDEC Japanese Trust Fund programs held on 1 March in Bangkok, Thailand. During the meeting, Dr. Azuma presented AQD's project proposals under GOJ-TF 5 (Government of Japan Trust Fund) that will be implemented from 2015 onwards. The proposed projects will focus on: (1) establishment of environment-friendly, responsible aquaculture and community-based management of aquatic resources and (2) reinforcement, optimization and effective dissemination of fish health management techniques. During the discussions, the reviewers suggested AQD to revise the proposals to consider the following: (1) collaboration with member countries in carrying out certain projects, especially government agencies/organizations working on similar areas; (2) intensification of activities for seed production and stock enhancement of commercially important species; and (3) continuation of activities prioritized by member countries.

The review was held back-to-back with the SEAFDEC Inter-departmental meeting (2 March) also in the same venue and attended by representatives of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and departments. There, Dr. Ayson gave a presentation on the progress and plans of AQD's R&D thematic programs. The representatives also reviewed the proposed establishment of a new SEAFDEC department in Palembang, Indonesia, tentatively known as the IFRDM (Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management) department. They



2013 SEAFDEC program review for Japanese Trust Fund (top). Representatives from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the departments at the SEAFDEC inter-departmental meeting

also noted the possible revisions of the existing SEAFDEC plan of operation, program of work and organizational structure to accommodate IFRDM and to enable the technical departments to explore sources of funds

and seek potential donors. The proposed revisions will be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for discussion and approval during its 45th meeting to be held 1-5 April in Cebu City, Philippines.

-B Acosta

A move to patent, trademark and copyright the AQD technologies

With the future of our country depending on innovators who are to come from universities and R&D institutions, IP or intellectual property can earn you millions and make your dreams come true," said Atty. Ricardo Blancaflor, Director-General of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHE). IP means establishing ownership and can come in the form of patents, trademarks and copyright. This was discussed in the Foundation course on IP held 7-8 March in Iloilo City by IPOPHE in collaboration with the Western Visayas College of Science & Technology.



Agreement signing of IPOPHE and AQD: [L-R, sitting] Dr. Nehema Misola, WVCST vice-president for administration; Dr. Relicardo Coloso, AQD head of research division; Dr. Luis Sorolla Jr, WVCST president; Atty Ricardo Blancaflor, director-general of IPOPHE; Dr. Felix Ayson, AQD chief; Atty. Gina Gomez, AQD lawyer. Standing are IPOPHE directors/specialists, AQD staff and WVCST faculty

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A move to patent AQD technologies...

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After the course's welcome ceremony, AQD signed an agreement with IPOPHL to become part of the latter's network of ITSOs (innovation and technology support offices), a pilot project created by IPOPHL in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization to provide a ready pool of science and technical experts with competence to conduct patent search and patent



(L-R) In agreement: IPOPHL represented by Atty Ricardo Blancaflor and SEAFDEC/AQD represented by Dr. Felix Ayson. AQD staff at the agreement signing: RD head Dr. Relicardo Coloso, AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson with AQD's ITSO officers as of 5 March Dr. Ma. Michelle Peñaranda (chairperson), Ms. Lyn Lee Lucero, Mr. Daryl Superio, Engr. Margarita Arnaiz (members)

drafting as well as to-assist in patent prosecution.
 "With 40 years of research-and-development under its belt, AQD has developed a lot of aquaculture technologies," noted AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson.

"The next step is to determine which are patentable, and have not been disseminated as prior art. We can be ambitious and perhaps foresee a future where R&D can be independently funded."

Five SEAFDEC/AQD staff and the AQD legal retainer attended the course along with representatives from at least 13 educational institutions in the Visayas.

Photos by MT CASTAÑOS

AQD ties up with UP Diliman

AQD signed an agreement with the University of the Philippines Diliman-Institute of Biology (UPD-IB) for a three-year research collaboration. The agreement is specific to the project on the development of molecular markers for milkfish broodstock management implemented under the research program "Genetics for sustainable milkfish aquaculture". The project is funded by DOST (Department of Science and Technology) through the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD). AQD scientists Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia and Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson are working with Prof. Zubaida Basiao of UPD-IB in implementing the project.

What's in Nashville?

Nashville in Tennessee, USA was this year's venue of the World Aquaculture Society meeting (21-25 February) and AQD was in attendance. AQD scientist Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos presented a paper on giant clams in the Tridacna session, one of the 15 simultaneous sessions in the 5-day meeting.



Delegates from SEAFDEC, UP Visayas and DOST in front of the Nashville Convention Center (left). Dr. Acacia Alcivar-Warren, who worked with AQD on a prawn genetic study in the mid-90s, and Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos

Photo courtesy of M.H.L. RAMOS

AQD works on ASFA bibliographic database



Photo courtesy of D SUPERIO

(L-R) AQD's senior information assistant Mr. Daryl Superio receives a certificate of training from (L-R) Dr. Thaithaworn Lirdwitayaprasit (Chair, Department of Marine Science, Chulalongkorn University), Ms. Helen Wibley (ASFA Editor-in-Chief and training instructor), Ms. Andrea Christiani (instructor), and Mr. Richard Pepe (instructor)

AQD's senior information assistant Mr. Daryl Superio was in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 to 22 March to undergo training on "ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts) input procedures". Mr. Superio along with five other participants attended lectures on bibliographic description, data entry, database installation and record importation and exportation. The training was organized by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) to ensure the consistency of ASFA records by using standard cataloging, abstracting and indexing procedures.

ASFA is an international cooperative information system that includes an abstracting and indexing service. SEAFDEC Secretariat, thru the agreement signed by SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Churnnarn Pongsri became an ASFA international partner; AQD is the collaborating center. AQD scientists and researchers can now have a free access on its in-house and online database. Not only that, it also provides a venue to promote AQD's in-house publications to hundreds of ASFA subscribers around the world.

Advocating for biotechnology

The development of human civilization hinges upon the ability to develop technologies and understand risks,” noted DA Undersecretary Hon. Segfredo Serrano, chair of the DA biotech program steering committee. “What we need are biotechnologies safeguarded by a good, open regulatory system to manage risks.”

Dr. Serrano’s group organized the *Communication planning workshop for agricultural biotechnology* held 22 March 2013 in Quezon City, and made a call for proposals on IEC (information-education-communication) projects for 2014 that advocate biotechnology.

AQD was one of the attending institutions (represented by Devcom head Ms. Mila Castaños) along with PhilRICE, Cotton Development Administration, BFAR-NFRDI (National Fisheries Research Development Institute), BMARC (Biotechnology Media Advocacy & Resource Center), and ISAAA (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications).



Standing is Hon. Segfredo Serrano, chair of the DA biotech program committee; rightmost is Dr. Antonio Alfonso, coordinator of the program’s implementing unit. Dr. Mariechel Navarro of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications talked about biotechnology communication

Photos by MT CASTAÑOS

AQD scientists are PHILAJAMES officers

Five AQD scientists were elected as the new officers of PHILAJAMES Visayas (Philippine Association of Japanese Government Scholars). Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa is president; Dr. Rolando Pakingking is second vice-president; Dr. Helen Marcial is secretary; and Dr. Veronica Alava and Dr. Emilia Qunitio are board members. On 16 March, the new officers had their formal oath-taking in Iloilo City before the adviser-researcher of JICC (Japan Information & Culture Center) Mr. Shinchiro Kato.



Photo courtesy of EC LACIERDA

JICC adviser-researcher Mr. Shinchiro Kato (leftmost) administers the oath-taking of the PHILAJAMES new sets of officers. (L-R) AQD scientist Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa, University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) associate professor Dr. Erlinda Lacierda, AQD scientists Dr. Veronica Alava & Dr. Emilia Qunitio, UPV associate professor Dr. Philip Ian Padilla, UPV assistant professor Dr. Gerald Qunitio and former UPV chancellor Dr. Minda Formacion

AQD Chief reaches out to junior staff

The future of AQD is in your hands,” AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson told AQD’s junior staff at the 6 March meeting at AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo. “A lot of our researchers are retiring in the next five years, and we are encouraging you to pursue graduate studies.

Work hard and learn the craft to prepare yourselves to take the place of our retirees.”

With the agreement signed between AQD and University of the Philippines Visayas, AQD senior staff will be teaching (as adjunct professors) at UPV, and

this will enable the junior staff to tap their supervisors as their thesis advisers and to work on research topics related to the project they are assisting in at AQD.

“If you love AQD, do your share,” concluded Dr. Ayson.



The junior staff with AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson, research head Dr. Relicardo Coloso and training & information head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson

Photo by: JM DELA CRUZ

Filming of AQD technologies

Mag-Agri Tayo's managing director Mr. Philip John Daffon Jr and crew were at AQD's stations in Tigbauan & Dumangas, Iloilo and Igang, Guimaras to document aquaculture technologies developed by AQD for commodities like rabbitfish, pompano, milkfish and mud crab. The filming was done from 20 to 26 March as part of the existing agreement between AQD and Mag-Agri Tayo's producer, Foundation for Agriculture-related Missions Inc.

Mag-Agri Tayo is a television program dedicated solely to promoting agriculture and fisheries. It is shown every Saturday on PTV-4.



AQD senior technician Ms. Bernardita Eullaran counts milkfish larvae

ALL PHOTOS BY RH LEDESMA



Stocking of milkfish larvae in larval rearing tanks



Transfer of berried mud crab from maturation tank to incubation tank



Packing of crablets for transport



Selection of pompano broodstock



Collection of pompano eggs



Induced spawning of rabbitfish



Liming of a pond



Packing of rabbitfish fry for transport



Stocking of rabbitfish fry in a pond



Photo by: JM DELA CRUZ

A new boat for IMS

The Igang Marine Station has a new pumpboat to ferry visitors, cargo, and fingerlings. At 38 feet long, the boat can safely transport 25 to 30 people. According to IMS officer-in-charge Mr. Mateo Yap, the body of the pump boat was constructed at an approximate cost of Php 115,000. The pumpboat was first used on 18 March.

Milkfish harvest @ IMS

On 26 March, one thousand nine (disposed at TMS) and one hundred fifty four (disposed at IMS) kg of milkfish were harvested from the floating cages at AQD's Igang Marine Station in Guimaras. The harvest is from the study of AQD researcher Ms. Ma. Rovilla Luhan on *Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture of seaweeds, sea urchin and milkfish*.

Here's how to harvest milkfish 😊 Thanks to Ephraim Doroteo, Percy Gamut, Remy Gonzaga, Rodel Gonzaga, Lucas Lopez, Alto Tinas, and Elmer Tinas.



Sunrise at Igang Marine Station

Photo by: JM DELA CRUZ



Photo by: JM DELA CRUZ

(1) Untie the nets from the bamboo supports



Photo by: MT CASTAÑOS

(2) Raise the nets away from the bamboo supports



Photo by: JM DELA CRUZ

(3) Scoop the milkfish into a transport container



Photo by: MT CASTAÑOS

(4) Place fish into crushed ice and water mixture



Photo by: MT CASTAÑOS

(5) Collect the fish for sorting



Photo by: MT CASTAÑOS

(6) Sort by size



Photo by: JM DELA CRUZ

(7) Weigh and count the total number of fish harvested



(8) Record data



Photo by: MT CASTAÑOS

(9) Arrange fish and ice alternately in ice boxes



Photo by: GK FAGANI

(10) Seal packing boxes and seal for transport to target market

Cheers to the 2013 graduates

Joemel Napoleon Pagtanac, son of administrative assistant Ms. Elisa June Pagtanac, finished BS in Marine Transportation from John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University

Toni Rose Balagasay, Angie Balagasay, Anna Mae Balagasay and Annie Balagasay, siblings of administrative assistant Ms. Mayann Balagasay, finished Bachelor of Elementary Education and Bachelor of Secondary Education from Aklan State University

Mar Chris Antolino, brother of information assistant Mr. Edgar Vincent, finished BS Tourism from West Visayas State University

Joey Zandrew dela Cruz Jr, brother of information assistant Ms. Joesyl Marie dela Cruz, finished BS Medical Technology from University of San Agustin

Alvin Doroteo, son of technician Mr. Ephraim Doroteo, finished BS in Fisheries *cum laude* from University of Antique

Lloyd Manzano, son of technician Mr. Ludovico Manzano, finished BS in Hotel & Restaurant Management from St. Paul's University

Carlo Tendencia, son of scientist Dr. Eleonor Tendencia and senior technician Mr. Isidro Tendencia, graduated from John B. Lacson Maritime High School

Francis Wilhelm Arnaiz, son of biotech laboratory manager Engr. Margarita Arnaiz, graduated from Philippine Science High School

Derek John Ticar and Diether John Ticar, children of senior technical assistant Mr. Romulo Ticar, graduated from Leganes National High School and *salutatorian* from Filipino-American School, respectively

Lovely Reyes, Judy Rose Unida, Chloe Chuahap and Jelly Ann Cerda, daughter and granddaughters of BFS technician Mr. Federico Reyes, finished high school and pre-school from Talim Island Academy and Navotas Elementary School, respectively

Krista Hilario, daughter of BFS electrician Mr. Zoilo Hilario, graduated from Catalino D. Salazar National High School

Cherrilyn Celebre and Dina Celebre, children of BFS aide Mr. Ricardo Celebre, graduated from Talim Island Academy and Pipindan Elementary School, respectively

Enrico Ayson, son of AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson and TID head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson, graduated *valedictorian* from Kinaadman Elementary School Inc.

Mia Ezabelle Cherry Yap, daughter of IMS officer-in-charge Mr. Mateo Yap, graduated from Miag-ao Elementary School

Joshua Miguel Salvilla, son of administrative assistant Ms. Yvonne Salvilla, graduated from San Jose Elementary School

DJohn Henry Tesorero, son of senior technician Mr. Michael Tesorero, graduated from Sta. Barbara Elementary School

Maria Angelica Banaag, daughter of BFS technician Mr. Bienvenido Banaag, graduated from Binangonan Central School

Karen Joy Gaitan, daughter of technician Mr. Joel Gaitan, graduated from Magamay Elementary School

Alexalyn Tiñas, son of technician Mr. Alto Tiñas, graduated from Igang Elementary School

Easter Fleur Solis, daughter of senior technical assistant Ms. Ellen Flor Solis, finished pre-school from Kinaadman Elementary School Inc

Arvielle Jurrien dela Peña, son of information assistant Ms. Jesserylle dela Peña, finished pre-school from Kinaadman Elementary School Inc

Venice Joyce Teves, daughter of senior technician Ms. Jocelyn Teves and feedmill operator Mr. Vicente Teves, finished pre-school from Kinaadman Elementary School Inc

Athena Gonzales and Precious Enya Magniser, granddaughters of IMS housing caretaker, finished pre-school from Emelio Jabuena Elementary School and Simon Ledesma Jaro Day Care Center

Winning baskets for AQD's team

A group of AQD staff proved that they have what it takes to be good team players. At the opening of the Buyu-an Summer Basketball League (Buyu-an hosts AQD's Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo) on 31 March, the AQD team won two games during the elimination round under the special category (invited teams). In order to qualify for the championship, AQD needs to win over four other teams. "We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to those who have supported us. More blessings to come," said team captain and AQD technical assistant Mr. Joemel Sumbing.



AQD basketball team: (Standing, L-R) Wilmar Tuante (security agency), Virgilio Futalan Jr. (phycology laboratory), Jolen Micmic (fish hatchery), Jerome Gensaya (fish hatchery), Vicente Torrigue Jr (integrated fish hatchery), Ernesto Banabatac Jr (fish hatchery), Joemel Sumbing (JIRCAS), Neil Tibubos (sandfish hatchery)

(Sitting, L-R) Heran Figurado (pump house), Jarry Babiera (feed mill), Angelo Castro Jr. (feed mill), Harold Figurado (sandfish hatchery), Dennis Catalan (integrated fish hatchery)

(Not in the picture) Alny Gernade (pump house), Rafael Barrido (abalone hatchery), Angelo Melo (mud crab hatchery)

Congrats to the new parents



Chloe Joy Galaura, first born of financial assistant Ms.

Laila Galaura and Mr. Ernie Galaura, was born on 8 March at Western Visayas Medical Center, Iloilo City



Jcee Recente, first child of Ms. Joan Recente and senior technical assistant Mr. Charlemagne Recente, was born on 9 March at West Visayas State University Medical Center, Iloilo City



AQD Matters

is published monthly by the Development Communication Section SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

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Circulation to friends of AQD: SB Alayon

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