

AQUA Dep't NEWS

Internal Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department

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AQD celebrates its 30th anniversary

AQD will celebrate its 30th year on July 9. The celebration will be highlighted with a launching of "Biology and Hatchery of Mud Crabs *Scylla* spp," an extension manual, and then Dean Domiciano K. Villaluz (DDKV) Memorial Lecture.

The extension manual describes the hatchery protocol of mud crab as developed at AQD. Authors are Emilia Qunitio and Fe Dolores Estepa.

Dr. Anicia Hurtado will deliver the lecture titled "Seaweed Research in Industry – partners towards globalization."

Other activities during the celebration will include awarding of

loyalty rings and certificates to 14 employees working for the Department for 20-years.

In line with the anniversary celebration, there will be a seminar on Business Opportunities in Aquaculture, dubbed AquaBiz, from July 7 to 8 at Iloilo City (see *related story on this issue*).

FishWorld will also be holding an "Aquaculture Week" from July 28 to August 1. The activities that will be participated in by school-children includes: (1) contests on painting, photojournalism, seafood dish, and aquarium, and (2) quizzes on ecology and aquaculture, and nutrition and aquaculture.

AQD's AquaBiz

A seminar on "Business opportunities in aquaculture," dubbed AquaBiz will run from July 7 to 8 in Iloilo City.

Luncheon speakers for two days will be Usec. Cesar Drilon, Jr., and Cong. Alfredo Maraño, Jr. About 200 persons from government and private sectors are expected to attend.

Fifteen viable technologies will be presented in this event. Specialists will discuss breeding and grow-out technologies of important aquaculture species that are mature for commercialization. An indicative investment analysis will cap each presentation.

Mangrove-friendly shrimp aquaculture workshop held in Bangkok



AQD Chief, Dr. Rolando Platon, presiding over the seminar

The Regional Seminar Workshop on Mangrove Friendly Shrimp Aquaculture was successfully held in Bangkok, Thailand on 24 to 27 June. Venue for the workshop was KU Home at the Kasetsart University.

It was participated in by all the SEAFDEC member countries with the exception of land-locked Laos. Thailand with six persons attending had the most number of participants. Vietnam and Myanmar had two each while Brunei-Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and the Phil-

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ippines had one participant each. The SEAFDEC Secretariat had a delegation of eight headed by the Secretary General, Mr. Niwes Ruangpanit who gave the opening message. AQD came in full force with a delegation consisting of 14 persons led by the Chief, Dr. Rolando Platon who presided over the seminar. Six more persons from the SEAFDEC Secretariat also came to support the AQD Workshop Secretariat.

Also present were representatives from the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Japan International Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). NACA was represented by Director-General Pedro Bueno himself.

The first day was devoted to the presentation of reports on the results of the verification and research studies in the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam. The long day ended at 6:00 pm with the representatives from NACA, FAO-RAP, and JIRCAS reporting on initiatives of their respective organization related to environment friendly aquaculture.

The second day tackled three agenda: Policy Issues on the Use of Mangroves for Aquaculture in SEAFDEC Member Countries, Transboundary Movement of Exotic Shrimp Species in the Region and finally Proposed Activities for the Extension of the Mangrove Friendly Shrimp Culture Project (MFSCP). For the policy issues, each country presented a country paper outlining their respective country's policy towards the use of mangroves for aquaculture. The topic on Exotic Species was kicked off by a presentation by Dr. Celia Torres and was followed by a lively discussion on the issue.

In discussing the extension of MFSCP, the AQD Chief decided

to deviate from the original plan of AQD staff presenting the AQD program. Instead each country was given the chance to air their own views on how the extension of the project should proceed. With the exception of Indonesia, the delegates from all the other member countries which have not yet had a direct participation in the project in the same manner as Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, also expressed their desire to have similar demonstration activities in their respective countries.

The third day was the workshop on the preparation of the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Use of Mangroves for Aquaculture. There was considerable discussion on whether there can ever be a "responsible use of mangroves for aquaculture" or would it be more correct to say "responsible aquaculture in a mangrove area." It was however pointed out that the former is the original wording in the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries (RGRF) for Southeast Asia. The workshop resulted in the compilation of a matrix on the policy on mangrove use in each of the Southeast Asian country and the compilation of a long list of experts from which the core experts can be selected to prepare the guidelines.

The fourth day brought the participants to the Kung Krabaen Bay. There the participants toured the facilities of the Kung Krabaen Royal Development Study Center, which includes the seawater irrigation system for the shrimp farms, mangrove research and the integrated agricultural activities in the surrounding areas. The excursion set out at 8:00 am from KU home and was supposed to be back by 7:00 pm. However a heavy downpour in the afternoon caused a monstrous traffic

"Every now and then, go away, take a little relaxation, because when you come back to work, your judgment will be surer. To remain constantly at work will cause you to lose power of judgment. Go some distance away, because then the work appears smaller and more of it can be taken in at a glance, and a lack of harmony or proportion is more readily seen."

Leonardo da Vinci

jam at the exits of the Bangkok expressway and delayed the arrival of the excursionist to 9:30 pm.

It was not all work for the participants. On the evening of the first day (Tuesday, June 24) a welcome dinner was followed by a karaoke session, which lasted till past 10:00 pm. The Sec Gen himself belted the opening song. Even Dr. Yasuhiso Kato gamely obliged. There was also a farewell dinner at the KU Home Japanese restaurant on the evening of the third day (Thursday, June 27) again followed by the obligatory karaoke session again opened by the Sec Gen. The AQD Chief was not to be left out. Deep into the night the remaining AQD ladies (Veling Sulit, Celia Torres, Raquel delos Reyes, Salve Gotiera) gave their all but unfortunately all the other guests had already left. Now if only they got their act together when everybody was still there! —**W.G.YAP**

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