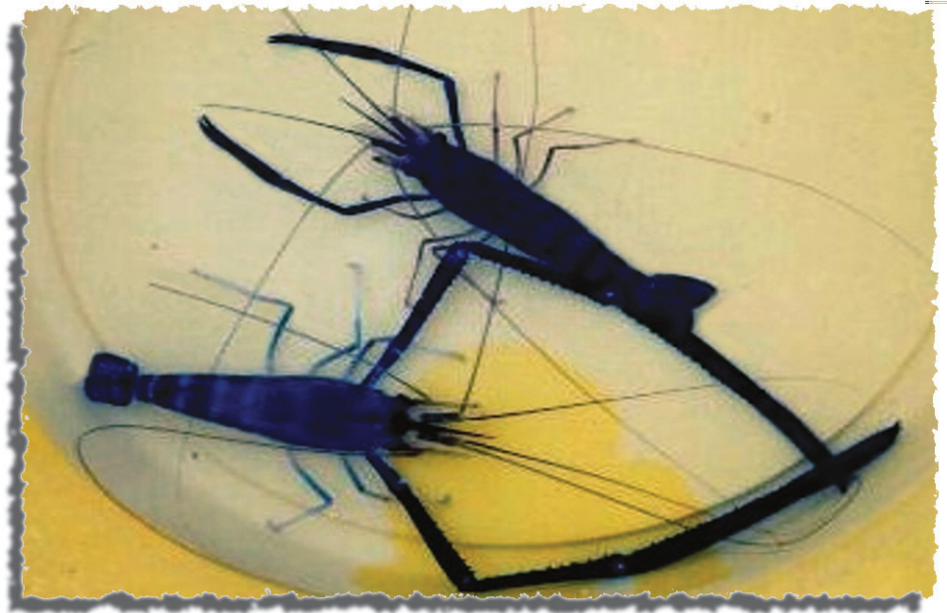




**REPORT OF THE
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
GENETICALLY IMPROVED
STRAIN OF MACROBRACHIUM**



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The Round Table Discussion on the Development of Genetically Improved Strain of *Macrobrachium* is part of the Collaborative Research on Genetic Improvement and Seed Production of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Special Five-Year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region: Aquaculture Component.

The participating countries in the Collaborative Research are:

Indonesia



Philippines



Thailand



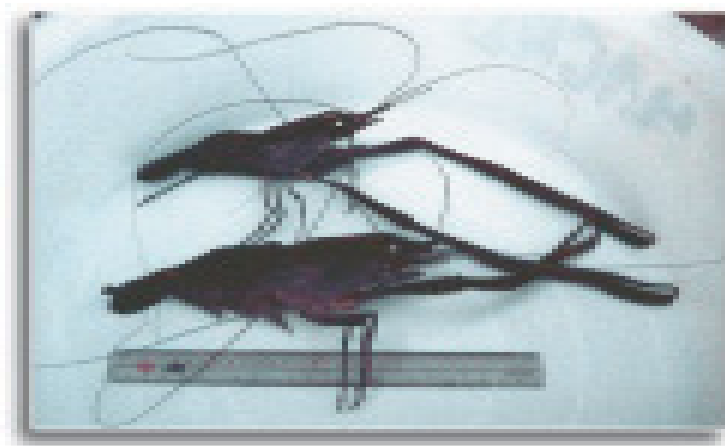
This publication documents the outcome of the Round Table Discussion including the proposals submitted by the participating countries for implementation under the Collaborative Research.



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**Freshwater Aquaculture Development Center
Sukabumi, West Java, Indonesia
16-19 November 2003**





This publication on the Report on the Round Table Discussion on the Development of Genetically Improved Strain of Macrobrachium

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From the Office of the Chief of SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department

Recognizing that the culture of the giant freshwater prawn in the ASEAN region is constrained by shortage of good quality seeds, lack of domesticated broodstock with selected strains, and absence of appropriate culture system; that freshwater prawn is becoming an economically important species for aquaculture in the region; and that some countries have already developed technologies on its culture in various scales of development, the Integrated Regional Aquaculture Program (IRAP) as the Aquaculture Component of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Special Five-Year Program has pooled the expertise and technologies in the ASEAN Region on freshwater prawn aquaculture, and decided to conduct a collaborative research on the genetic improvement and seed production of the giant freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*.

The collective effort of Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines in collaborating for the conduct of this research is expected to lessen the period of research and hasten the improvement and sustainable production of the giant freshwater prawn in the ASEAN region. It is the goal of the collaborative research to come up with technology for consistent and improved production of quality freshwater prawn seeds that could be made available for rural aquaculture in the region, in the shortest possible time. Through this collaborative effort, a fast growing and disease resistant strain of the freshwater prawn could also be established for dissemination in this region.

On behalf therefore, of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC and as the Program Co-Manager for AQD of the Special Five-Year Program, I wish to thank the Fisheries Agency of the Government of Japan for providing the Special Funds for the implementation of IRAP and specifically this collaborative research; the ASEAN Secretariat and the SEAFDEC Secretariat for the full support accorded to this activity; the Governments of Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines for providing the expertise and the existing technologies on freshwater prawn aquaculture; and the scientists and researchers involved in the collaborative research and the support staff for their efforts.

We are indeed grateful that this collaborative research was able to convene its first Round Table Discussion in November 2003 to delineate responsibilities. For their efforts, I also wish to commend the participants in the Round Table Discussion for their involvement in the deliberations. This Report documents the country papers presented, the recommendations and the research proposals that would serve as basis for the conduct of the collaborative research in respective countries, the results of which will be disseminated to the other countries in the region for the improvement of the freshwater prawn aquaculture in the ASEAN region.


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