



SECOND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENETICALLY IMPROVED STRAIN OF MACROBRACHIUM



**Aquaculture Department
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
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SECOND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENETICALLY IMPROVED STRAIN OF MACROBRACHIUM

A Collaborative Research under the Aquaculture Component of the
ASEAN-SEAFDEC Special Five-Year Program on
Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region

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FOREWORD

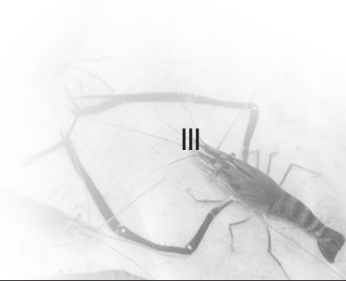
The giant freshwater prawn is an economically important species but its culture is constrained by shortage of good quality seeds, possible inbreeding in domesticated broodstock and for not having developed improved strain. Through the Integrated Regional Aquaculture Program (IRAP), the collaborative research project on the Development of Genetically Improved Strain of Macrobrachium was conceived to address these concerns. IRAP is the Aquaculture Component of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Special Five-Year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region, with funding from the Government of Japan.

The Second Round Table Discussion on the Development of Genetically Improved Strain of Macrobrachium was held in the Philippines in September 2004 to evaluate the progress of activities of the collaborative research and as a follow-up to the First Round Table Discussion, which was convened in Indonesia in 2003. During the said Round Table Discussion, delineation of responsibilities was agreed upon by the participating countries – Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. One of the recommendations during the First Round Table Discussion was to conduct a yearly evaluation of the project activities to enable the experts to get to know of each other's activities and come up with a consistent and improved technology on production of good quality freshwater prawn seeds that can be made available for rural aquaculture in the region.

This publication contains the progress of the collaborative research presented during the Second Round Table Discussion. I am hopeful that the collaborative efforts of the participating countries in this collaborative research will hasten the improvement of seed quality of the giant freshwater prawn in Southeast Asia. It is also hoped that through this collaboration, an improved strain of the freshwater prawn can be developed for dissemination in the region making the aquaculture of the giant freshwater prawn more profitable.

On behalf therefore of SEAFDEC, I would like to thank the Government of Japan for the financial assistance to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Special Five-Year Program and specifically for the collaborative research project, the ASEAN Secretariat and the SEAFDEC Secretariat for their full support, the respective governments of the participating countries for providing the basic funding for the country components of the project and sharing their expertise. I also wish to commend the participants in the Round Table Discussion for their active participation and exchange of ideas during the deliberations.


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