



In order to continue assessing the progress and status of the activities in the participating countries, the Third Roundtable Discussion was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 4 December 2005 in order to:

1. assess the progress of activities under the collaborative project;
2. identify problems and concerns;
3. evaluate technologies through the collaborative project; and
4. recommend future course of action for the collaborative project under the second phase of the Special Five-Year Program.

THE THIRD ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Rationale

Since the recommendations during the 2003 Roundtable Discussion included an annual evaluation of the progress of activities on the status of the projects and an assessment of the problems in the implementation of the activities, the Third Roundtable Discussion was therefore necessary and this was convened in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 4 December 2005.

Under the collaborative project are the following three major activities being implemented in the participating countries:

1. **Indonesia:** Genetic improvement of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* with emphasis on the assessment of the performance of the genetically improved (GI) Macro;
2. **Thailand:** Selective breeding program for genetic improvement of the giant freshwater prawn; and
3. **Philippines:** Morphometric characterization and performance evaluation of *Macrobrachium* stocks and closely related species in the Philippines.

The status of these activities needs to be assessed in order to develop a technology for consistent and improved production of quality freshwater prawn seedstock that will be disseminated to countries in the region.



The Third Round Table Discussion Participants



Objectives

The general objective of the Third Round Table Discussion was to evaluate the activities implemented in the participating countries under the collaborative project. The specific objectives were to:

1. assess the progress of activities under the collaborative project;
2. identify problems and concerns;
3. evaluate technologies through the collaborative project; and
4. recommend future course of action.

Participants

The Roundtable Discussion was attended by 32 participants representing the participating countries of the collaborative project (Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines) as well as the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the SEAFDEC Training and Aquaculture Departments.

Discussion

SEAFDEC Secretary-General *Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj* after giving his welcome remarks officially opened the Third Round Table Discussion. AQD Chief *Dr. Rolando Platon* initially chaired the session and presented a brief summary of the activities of the collaborative project. He informed the participants that the program has been conducted since 2003 under the Aquaculture Component of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Special Five Year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region. *Dr. Platon* continued by requesting the participants to introduce themselves and the agencies/institutions they were representing.



SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj (left), incoming Discussion Chairman Dr. Wattana Leelepat (center) and AQD Chief Dr. Rolando Platon (right) during the Opening of the Third Round Table Discussion



Outgoing Discussion Chairman Dr. Melchor Tayamen at the Opening of the Discussion

The outgoing Chairman *Dr. Melchor Tayamen* of the Philippines briefed the participants about the progress of the collaborative project. He then asked the participants to choose the Chairman for the Discussion. Nominated by the representative from Indonesia and seconded by the representative from the Philippines, the representative from Thailand, *Dr. Wattana Leelepat* was elected Chairman of the Third Round Table Discussion. The incoming Chairman discussed the agenda for the proposed two-day Discussion and encouraged the participants to rationally evaluate the progress of the collaborative project in order to come up with the desired plan of action.