

# SEAFDEC AQD Matters

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

## Courses on milkfish, marfish and fish health

Three participants coming from the Republic of Kiribati (2) and Philippines (1) completed AQD's *Special training on milkfish farming* that was held 26 September-10 October.

AQD resource persons lectured on topics such as larval rearing, natural food production, grow-out in cages, feed formulation and value-addition. The participants had hands-on activities and demonstration on pond & feed preparation, cage design & construction, stock sampling, monitoring and harvesting.

Meanwhile, a *Training on hatchery of marine fish* was held on 14-30 September and was attended by Mr. Henry Bernales, an entrepreneur from Davao City.

The course covered lectures and practical



Participants of milkfish training monitor water quality at one of the ponds in Dumangas Brackishwater Station

activities on spawning & larval rearing of milkfish and high value species; culture of live food organisms; broodstock management and *Artemia* biomass production. Site visits to AQD's brackishwater and marine stations have been arranged as well.

Finally, Mr. Salaheldeen Yagouh Mohamed of Sudan, the sole

participant in the *Special training on fish parasite detection and identification*, successfully completed the week-long course which started from 15 August to 28 September.

In the past ten years, AQD has trained over 2,700 extensionists, entrepreneurs and other aquaculture industry stakeholders in 66 types of short-term training courses conducted in 191 sessions.



Trainees of milkfish farming familiarize themselves with hatchery operations with AQD researcher Ms. Ofelia Reyes (left) and AQD researcher Ms. Gregoria Pagador shows Mr. Salaheldeen Yagouh Mohamed how to identify parasite (right)

**"With the new knowledge I have learned from AQD I am now more confident that I can do better in my business."**

**Ms. Glony Realgo**  
Private entrepreneur  
Philippines

## AQD, FARM Inc. sign accord



COURTESY OF MRR EGUIA

**A**QD and the Foundation for Agriculture-Related Missions (FARM) Inc. signed an agreement on 12 September at AQD's Manila office to showcase AQD's mature technologies on both marine and freshwater aquaculture species. FARM Inc. is the producer of *Mag-agri tayo* – a television program dedicated to promoting agriculture and fisheries in the country. [See story of the video shoot on pages 5-6]

## Info campaign and resource enhancement

**F**rom 27 to 28 September, AQD's Socioeconomic section head Dr. Nerissa Salayo together with Senior technical assistant Ms. Dianne Hope Tormon and Technical assistant Mr. Rafael Barrido conducted a round of information dissemination campaign at 10 *sitios* of Brgy. Molocaboc, Sagay City.

The campaign was done to finally reach out and enhance compliance to the Barangay Ordinance 01-2010 prohibiting the gathering of abalones with less than 6 cm shell length. AQD was joined by the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (BFARMC) members led by its president Carlos Batayola, the local government of Molocaboc led by its chairperson Antonio Pasaylo, and the

Dr. Nerissa Salayo (in pink) discusses the Barangay Ordinance 01-2010 in one of the *sitios* of Brgy. Molocaboc (left) and the participants of Brgy. Molocaboc, sitio Punta (right) [PHOTOS BY: DH TORMON]



## AQD attends forums on S&T and biodiversity

**A**QD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo was invited by the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science (PhilAAS) to give a presentation on *Sustaining productivity in fisheries and aquaculture in a changing climate* during the *World conference on science and technology* held 13-14 September at the Manila Hotel, Manila.

The same presentation was likewise delivered on behalf of Dr. Toledo by AQD research division head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson during the University of the Philippines Visayas' *4th Graduate research conference* on 24 September at the UPV Auditorium, Iloilo City.

On another occasion, AQD scientist Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia joined the roundtable discussion and workshop on the *Philippine biodiversity information system* at UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies in Diliman, Quezon City on 19 September.



Ms. DH Tormon together with some members of the community release the hatchery-reared abalone (left) and some members of the community measure the gathered abalone broodstock (right) [PHOTOS BY: DH TORMON]

staff of the research and social development sections of the Sagay Marine Reserve Protected Area Management Board (SMR-PAMB). For almost a year now, the officers and members of the BFARMC participate in collaborative activities between AQD and Sagay City local government through its SMR-PAMB.

Meanwhile, following the first stocking of hatchery-reared abalones and sea cucumbers in the

community-based resource enhancement demonstration site in Molocaboc on 4-9 June, the second batch of hatchery-reared abalones were released in the demo-site on 29 September. AQD and the Sagay community also gathered broodstock to be maintained at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station. Juveniles produced from these breeders will be brought to Sagay to further enhance the remaining wild stocks in Brgy. Molocaboc.



## AQD rescues young turtles

Weighing an average of 13 grams and their carapace measuring an average of 4 x 3 cm, 18 hatchlings of a green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas* raced to the sea at 5 pm on 11 September. They were watched by villagers of Brgy. Igcadlom, San Joaquin who discovered them in the village marine sanctuary. The villagers earlier waited for AQD staff whom they called to seek advice on what to do with the hatchlings given that the nest was close to a road. They were advised to secure the hatchlings, place in a container with just enough seawater to moisten them, and release them during the cooler part of the day.



(FROM TOP, L-R) Pawikan hatchlings, residents of Brgy. Igcadlom, San Joaquin together with AQD staff, and the nest located at the foot of the beach slope [PHOTOS BY: EF SOLIS]

## AQD welcomes visitors

### DA Secretary

Highly interested in mature technologies generated by AQD to help sustain fisheries and aquaculture production in the country, Hon. Secretary Proceso Alcala of the Department of Agriculture visited AQD's main station in Tigbauan on 22 September. AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo toured him around AQD's new pilot feed mill plant and experimental hatcheries for marine fish (seabass, grouper, siganid, snapper, pompano), sandfish, abalone, and mudcrab. Sec. Alcala also visited the backyard-scale abalone & multi-species marine fish hatchery intended as a technology demonstration area for fishfarmers and entrepreneurs.



AQD chief Dr. JD Toledo tours DA secretary Proceso Alcala at AQD new feedmill complex (top), abalone hatchery (middle), and backyard hatchery (above)

### CPU students

Student librarians from the Central Philippine University in Iloilo City came to see the AQD Library on 19 September. AQD librarian Ms. Luisa Pacino gave an orientation on AQD's collections, while information assistants Mr. Stephen Alayon and Mr. Elvi Nemiz briefed the students on SAIR (AQD institutional repository, [www.repository.seafdec.org.ph](http://repository.seafdec.org.ph)) and OPAC (Online public access catalogue, <http://opac.seafdec.org.ph/wx>), respectively.



AQD librarian Ms. Luisa Pacino orients the students from Central Philippine University (top), Mr. Elvi Nemiz explains OPAC to the students (middle), and the students together with the AQD library staff (above)

## AQD charts a new course

Aimed to facilitate the shift in the overall approach of AQD's program implementation, this year's *In-house review and planning meeting* was held 6-9 September at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station.

AQD senior staff attended the plenary and group discussions to prioritize AQD's five year workplan based on the allocation of human and financial resources.

During the three-day activity, program leaders presented the output of the previous two meetings (commodity-based programs and thematic programs) that was held in August.



## Research seminar



**Dr. Satoshi Watanabe**, AQD's visiting scientist, presented on 15 September his study on *Growth pattern of juvenile sea cucumber, *Holothuria scabra* reared in captivity.*

Dr. Watanabe said that hatchery-produced sandfish juveniles were reared with ample diatom and powdered shrimp feed in a 1.5 tank with sand substrate. The body size and weight were measured every two weeks for three months under anaesthetization with 2% menthol-ethanol.

He found out that the mean growth rates of juveniles were 0.4 mm/d and 0.08 g/d in three months.

He explained that he needs more data to be collected under different conditions such as stocking density, temperature, feeding and substrate type to establish growth chart for *H. scabra*.

## Special lecture on research



**Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia**, AQD's Technology verification and demonstration head, gave the first half of a series of lectures on *Research methods* from 26 to 28 September.

Dr. Eguia discussed research definition, problems, & objectives, review of related literature, research designs & methods, sampling designs & data analysis, and proposal & scientific manuscripts writing.

The seminar series attended mostly by technical assistants aimed to provide a synthesis of current methodological thoughts & practices in biological & environmental science research. The second half of the seminar series will resume in November.

## Flu vaccination @ AQD



TID's Ms. Richelle Bautista accompanies her son during the flu vaccination (left) and Dr. Teruo Azuma gives a thumbs up while having the anthropometric test (right)

**A**QD employees got their shot of flu vaccine on 15 September at the TID conference room.

Medical team from Caduceus clinical laboratory and services of Iloilo City offered discounted flu vaccination to all AQD employees and their qualified dependents. They also provided Anthropometric test and Doppler test to check bone density and circulation blockage, respectively.

## Video shoot @ AQD

**A**QD's aquaculture R&D results find their way to a larger audience-base as NBN Channel 4's *Mag-agri Tayo* filmed its mature technologies during the media team's visit at AQD's stations in Tigbauan and Dumangas in Iloilo and Igang in Guimaras from 26 September to 2 October.

A total of 26 segments will be shown every Saturday, 9:00 AM. Initially, the video footages on ulang or giant freshwater prawn hatchery were featured in *Mag-agri Tayo* on 3 & 10 September. The videos can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/magagritayo>.

AQD's development communication staff, who arranged the itinerary and escorted Mr. Phillip Daffon Jr., Mr. Enrico Roque, and Ms. Carmela Pangilinan of *Mag-agri Tayo*, thank AQD officials, thematic program leaders, and technical assistants for sharing their time and patiently explaining their work.



Quality seed for sustainable aquaculture program leader Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia discusses AQD's research & future plans under the good quality seed thematic program



Adapting to climate change program leader Dr. Felix Ayson talks about AQD's efforts in having sustainable aquaculture amidst the changing environment



Dr. Junemie Leбата-Ramos program leader of maintaining environment integrity through responsible aquaculture explains the existing research on sandfish, giant clams, and seahorses

## AQD's new faces

**Mr. Justin Brian Chiongson** is a technical assistant assigned at the Nutrition and Feed Development Section. He earned his bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Santo Tomas.

**Ms. Jovy Ann Valera** is assigned at the Binangonan Freshwater Station as technical assistant. She obtained her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of the Philippines Visayas

**Mr. Christian Earvin Bondoc** is a technical assistant assigned at the Fish Health Section. He graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of the Philippines.

**Ms. Anne Jinky Villacastin** is a technical assistant assigned at the Fish Health Section. She graduated from the University of the Philippines Manila with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry.



AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo explains the heart and core of AQD's research and development work



Healthy & wholesome aquaculture program leader Dr. Relicardo Coloso speaks about AQR's studies on fish health and different types of feeds, depending on cultured species



Marine fish hatchery in-charge Ms. Ofelia Reyes demonstrates how to collect ripe fish eggs



Senior technical assistant Mr. Nestor Bayona shows abalone broodstock reared at AQR's abalone hatchery



Senior technical assistant Ms. Milagros Paner prepares PCR mixture used in detection of parasites in fish samples



AQR associate researcher Mr. Eliseo Coniza explains the pompano grow-out culture



Mag-agri Tayo crew takes footages during the harvest of pompano at AQR's Dumangas Brackishwater Station (DBS)



Senior technical assistant Mr. Vincent Encena II explains abalone grow-out system at Igang Marine Station (IMS)



Water sampling at one of the ponds at DBS



IMS head Mr. Albert Gaitan and senior technical assistant Ms. Dianne Hope Tormon meet the representatives of the community organizations adopting milkfish cage culture through the AQR-Petron project



TV crew films the feeding of milkfish at one of the cages at IMS



Mag-agri Tayo team also visited the abalone hatchery facilities of Mr. Rey Acap, one of AQR's successful technology adoptors



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