

SEAFDEC AQD Matters

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

Courses on food safety and land evaluation for fishpond

In all aspects, the course is excellent," said Dr. Mohammad Kamal, National Expert BEST-Better Fish Quality, UNIDO (United Nation Industrial Development Organization) upon completing the first *International training on food safety of aquaculture products* which was held 12 - 16 November at AQD's main station in Iloilo.

Also completing the course were participants from Bangladesh (9, who learned of the course from AQD's website), Cambodia (1), Thailand (1) and the Philippines (3).

The course which was partly funded by the Government of Japan Trust Fund, covered lectures and practical activities on good post-harvest practices; fish nutrition & food safety; antibiotics, pesticides, heavy



Photo by RT BAUTISTA



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(L-R) The participants of food safety course during their practicals on antibiotic residue analysis; and Ms. Aubrey Burlas (leftmost) together with the trainees during their laboratory practicals

metals, & microbiological analyses; good aquaculture practices; and climate change. The group also toured the Unifish processing plant at San Dionisio, Iloilo.

AQD also conducted a *Training on conducting inventory and evaluation of public lands released for fishpond development*

purposes which was held 11-16 November and attended by 31 technical officers of BFAR (Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources).

The training included lectures and hands-on activities on topics such as basic fishpond aquaculture system, farm economics, basic steps in conducting fishpond

lease agreement inventory, mangrove biology, basic mapping orientation, and aquasilviculture focusing on best practices for mud crab nursery, grow-out & fattening. The participants also visited different reforestation sites in Leganes, Iloilo; Ivisan, Capiz; and Ibajay, Aklan.

Mr. Jackito Ballebar, of BFAR region 5, expressed his gratitude to AQD for extending full support to the program and for being the best partner of BFAR. "I learned a lot of things and I am very proud that I am one of the beneficiaries of this course," he added.

This activity was funded by BFAR and the Zoological Society of London.



Photo by RT BOMBEED



(L-R) The trainees during their site visit at mangrove reforestation site in Leganes, Iloilo; and AQD scientist emerita Dr. Jurgene Primavera lectures on mangrove utilization and management to the participants

"The training and workshop are very good. I hope that the objectives and advocacy of AQD continue so that problems brought about by global warming will be resolved through adoption of the technology by the people in the community."

Mr. Jackito Ballebar
BFAR region 5 (Camarines Sur)

PTAC meets in Manila

By B Acosta

The Management Committee of SEAFDEC/AQD and senior representatives of the relevant Philippine government institutions (Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture, Department of Foreign Affairs, and University of the Philippines Visayas) gathered on 25 October 2012 in Quezon City for the 22nd Meeting of the Philippine Technical Administrative Committee (PTAC).

The meeting was convened to (1) review the status of accomplishments of AQD in 2012 (R&D programs and administration and finance) and plans for 2013 and 2014, for endorsement to the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the Philippine government; and (2) discuss the pressing issues and matters that concern the present and future operations of AQD.

The Committee recommended that AQD



(L-R) AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson, DA ASEC Mr. Salvador Salacup, UPV College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Dean Dr. Carlos Baylon, and DA-BFAR capture fisheries head Dr. Jonathan Dickson

should quantify the benefits that its programs could bring to the country's fisheries sector to help justify to the Philippine government the proposed operational budget of the Department for 2014.

This year's PTAC meeting was chaired by DA Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup. He stressed that AQD's programs should be relevant and address the needs of the country's aquaculture industry. He also recommended that AQD should enhance its dialogue with the industry. In particular,

he encouraged the researchers to continue conducting studies that will bring down the cost of production of commercially important aquaculture commodities. Lastly, he encouraged AQD to work closely with BFAR and to establish links with other relevant agencies such as TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) to promote and fast track the dissemination of mature and viable AQD technologies to fish farmers/entrepreneurs.

AQD co-organizes biotech forum

Disseminating the benefits of biotechnology and mobilizing advocates were the main focus of the *Scientific forum on biotechnology for communicators* held 15 November at Iloilo City. Attended by 155 representatives of the academe, media, and government agencies in Western Visayas, the forum was organized by Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines, BMARC (Biotechnology for Life Media and Advocacy Resource Center) and AQD.

AQD research head Dr. Relicardo Coloso and BMARC program director Mr. Joel Paredes both agreed that biotechnology needs a "truthful" voice to speak on its behalf.

"The general public needs accurate, science-based facts from legitimate sources in order to better understand the vital role of science and biotechnology in their lives," said Mr. Paredes. He also emphasized that most consumers or the general public prefer media as their main source of information. That is the reason why it is important for the media and science communicators to work together with scientists/researchers to produce fair, accurate and reliable information.

Meanwhile, Dr. Antonio Alfonso, chief science research specialist of Philrice (Philippine Rice Research Institute) and Dr. Candida Adalla, director of DA Biotechnology Program, updated the participants about the latest development in the application of biotechnology in agriculture to improve agricultural output. AQD



(L-R) AQD research head Dr. Relicardo Coloso welcomes the participants; BMARC director Mr. Joel Paredes, AQD scientist and training & information head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson, DA biotech director Candida Adalla and PhilRice science specialist Dr. Antonio Alfonso are the speakers



AQD staff who attended the biotechnology forum with two representatives from the University of Antique (seated, leftmost)

scientist and training & information head Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson discussed the application of biotechnology in aquaculture for food security.

AQD welcomes visitors

GIZ program leaders

To explore aquaculture technologies that are ready for adoption, 20 program advisers of GIZ SNRD Asia (Sector Network Natural Resources & Rural Development) from Germany, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pacific Islands, and the Philippines visited AQD's Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo, Philippines on 9 November.

The group was toured around AQD's hatcheries and facilities. AQD scientists Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa and Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos gave lectures on mud crab culture and stock enhancement of abalone & seahorse, respectively.

Malampaya Foundation

On 21-22 November, 20 officials and staff of Malampaya Foundation coming from Palawan, Romblon and Manila spent time discovering AQD's hatcheries and visited AQD's station in Igang, Guimaras.

The participants also attended lectures on abalone culture, coastal resource management, stock enhancement, and marine protected area management by AQD researcher Ms. Milagros dela Peña and AQD scientist Dr. MJHL Ramos, respectively.



The GIZ group visits AQD's integrated broodstock hatchery (A) and mud crab hatchery (B), and listen to the lecture of AQD scientist Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos on mud crab stock enhancement (C) - Photo by CV Genzola

The Malampaya participants visit AQD's marine fish hatchery (A) and abalone hatchery (B), and listen to the lecture of AQD researcher Ms. Milagros dela Peña on abalone culture (C) - Photo by CV Genzola

AQD joins international library conference



Mr. Stephen Alayon (2nd row, 2nd from left) with University of the Philippines Diliman and Ateneo de Manila University librarians and faculty

Mr. Stephen Alayon, officer-in-charge of the AQD library & data banking services section, attended the 5th Rizal library international conference held 25-26 October at Ateneo de Manila in Quezon City.

More than 300 participants listened to the 24 presenters who discussed topics such as creative methods of marketing & promotion, disaster planning management efforts, conservation, preservation tools & practices, among others.

Research seminars



Mr. Joemel Sumbing, AQD technical assistant, shared his experience on 22 November regarding his training at JIRCAS (Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences).

An article about his trip was already featured in the July 2012 issue of the *AQD Matters*.



Mr. Jesus Rodriguez, AQD senior technical assistant, presented on 22 November his learnings during his training on *Sandfish culture* at UP Marine Science Institute - Bolinao Marine Laboratory.

Mr. Rodriguez pointed out that the sandfish course he attended covered topics on biology, algal culture, seed production, spawning techniques, larval & nursery rearing, release strategy on sea ranching, as well as practical sessions on sandfish induce spawning and larval rearing. The course ended with a site visit to the ocean nursery in hapa set up and sea ranching study area of UPMSI.

Fare thee well!

AQD bade good bye to one of its loyal and hard-working staff Ms. Lota Alpasan, Senior Technical Assistant at Breeding and seed production section. She has rendered more than three decades of service at AQD.

A double celebration was held on 13 November to celebrate her 60th birthday and her retirement. Friends and colleagues came to join the celebration. Some of her closest friends spoke well of her character and long service to AQD. As a response she thanked AQD for the all the opportunities given to her. "I am so happy and I will always remember this day," Ms. Alpasan added.



AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson on Ms. Lota Alpasan: "Lota is a great personal friend and I'll miss her. At work, you don't have to say anything to her because she knows already the things that she needs to do."



AQD staff render a dance and song number during the party

AQD's new faces



Joesyl Marie de la Cruz is an Information Assistant at Development Communication Section. She earned her BS degree in Development Communication *cum laude* from West Visayas State University, Iloilo City.



Arnel Gelvero is a Civil Engineer at Engineering Section. He earned his BS degree in Civil Engineering at the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City.



Jonas Mediavilla is a Technical Assistant at Farming Systems and Ecology Section. He is a BS Fisheries graduate from UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo.



Mildred Rutaquio earned her BS degree in Fisheries major on Inland Fisheries at University of Rizal System, Cardona Rizal. She is a Technical Assistant at AQD's Binangonan Freshwater Station.



Jee Grace Suyo joins the Farming Systems and Ecology Section as a Technical Assistant. She finished her Masters degree in Marine Affairs at UP Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo.



Marvin Villanueva is a former Information Assistant from FishWorld, transferred to Farming Systems and Ecology Section as Senior Technician. He is a BS Marine Biology graduate from Aklan State University, New Washington, Aklan.



AQD Matters

is published monthly by the Development Communication Section SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

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