

Message from the Chairperson, Fish Health Section of the Asian Fisheries Society

The Fifth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA V), with the theme “Healthy, Wealthy and Wise” was successfully held at the Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfer’s Paradise, Queensland, Australia from 24-28 November 2002. DAA V is unique since this is the first DAA where a number of technical workshops were held as evening events or back-to-back sessions as part of FHS’s new initiative on continuing professional educational program in conjunction with DAA. These events were: (a) Workshop on epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS), held on 25 November, which brought together 35 participants and 5 EUS experts from Australia, India, Japan and USA, aimed at unifying the opposing and differing views by different scientists; (b) Workshop on Mikrocell, held on 27 November, by a small group of experts from Australia, Canada, France, Japan and New Zealand, organized by the OIE Reference Laboratory for Molluscan Diseases - IFREMER (France) which discussed the progress of various research on Mikrocell (*Bonamia*, *Perkinsus*, *Mikrocytos*, *Marteilia*, *Haplosporidium* and *Marteilioides*); (c) Workshop on Epidemiology-Biosecurity, held from 29-30 November, organized by AusVet-Australia, CEFAS-UK and AFFA-Australia, participated by 32 registrants from 14 countries, aimed to gain better understanding of the epidemiological principles underpinning disease surveillance, zoning and import risk analysis in aquatic animal health; and (d) FAO/NACA Asia-Pacific Regional Program on Molluscan Health Management Phase II: Training/Workshop and Evaluation of Country-Specific Survey Results, held from 29 November to 4 December, at the University of Queensland, attended by 31 participants and resource experts from 14 countries. The FHS provided travel support for 13 students/young scientists to participate in DAA V. Another memorable event was the adoption of the amended FHS by-laws during the FHS’s Sixth Triennial General Meeting (TGM-6).

I personally thank the FHS Executive Committee (1999-2002) under the leadership of Dr Supraanee Chinabut for a fruitful and productive term of office. I also especially thank the 212 scientists from 32 countries who participated; the local organizing committee headed by Dr Richard Callinan (NSW Fisheries and Vice-Chairperson of the FHS ExeCom 1999-2000) together with CSIRO (Dr Peter Walker), AusVet (Dr C Baldock), Queensland Department of Primary Industries (Dr T Hawkesford) and University of Queensland (Dr B Lester); the Program Committee lead by Dr P Walker together with a team of regional/global experts on aquatic animal health; Ozacom, the events organizer; and the generous sponsors (e.g. FHS-AFS, CSIRO, QDPI, Biosecurity Australia, AFFA, NSW Fisheries, Intervet, INVE, University of Queensland, WAS Asian Pacific Chapter, ACIAR and the Australian Prawn Farmers’ Association). Last but not the least we thank all the contributors, referees and editors of this series for a job well done.

On behalf of the FHS Executive Committee (2002-2005) and the members of the FHS-AFS, we are pleased to present the *Diseases in Asian Aquaculture V*. We hope that this fifth volume will continue to contribute significant information resulting from original research and review papers and provide appropriate direction, in our quest for better aquatic animal health management in Asian aquaculture.

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