

Message from the President, Asian Fisheries Society

It gives me great pleasure to address the publication of the proceedings of the 5th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA-V) organized by the Fish Health Section (FHS) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS).

The DAA-V was successfully held in Queensland, Australia from the 24th - 28th November 2002. Attended by some 212 scientists from 32 countries, the symposium included a series of excellent technical workshops. I am especially pleased to note that the AFS-FHS has for the first time, included training and educational activities within its symposium. On behalf of the AFS, I would like to congratulate the FHS organizing committee for holding the symposium and for publishing the proceedings.

Asia, especially Southeast Asia is the leading aquaculture producing region in the world, in both volume and value. To maintain this position, we need to be constantly vigilant of advances and innovations in fish health management, diagnosis and control.

Fish health in recent years, under intensive farming conditions, has become a critical issue in the aquaculture industry. Encouraging awareness, providing continuing professional training to aquaculture specialists and upgrading their diagnostic skills are critical to the success and sustainability of the industry in Asia.

I strongly recommend the proceedings of the DAA-V with the theme “Healthy, Wealthy and Wise” an essential reading for all researchers and commercial operators. Once again congratulations to the Executive Committee of AFS-Fish Health Section and to everyone associated with organizing the symposium and publishing the proceedings.

May I take this opportunity to state that AFS, together with the FHS and its branches in India, Japan and Taiwan, can make a difference to the aquaculture industry in Asia by working collaboratively together and with other international agencies.

Chan L. Lee Ph.D.
President, Asian Fisheries society
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