

Message from the Chairperson, Fish Health Section of the AFS

The Sixth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VI) with the theme “Aquatic animal health – facing new challenges – was successfully held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The symposium was officially opened by the Honorable Milroy Fernando, Sri Lanka’s Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, with the lighting of candles, a number of speeches and welcome remarks and ending with a Sri Lankan dance. Another milestone symposium of the Fish Health Section, DAA VI proper was held from 25-28 October 2005; a number of pre- and post-DAA VI activities included the 4th Meeting of NACA’s Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (23-24 October), a Training Workshop on Fish Disease Diagnosis and Health Management (23-24 October), and the FAO Expert Workshop on Development of CCRF Health Management Guidelines (1-4 November), making the whole event run through almost three weeks of work and fun.

With more than 180 delegates from 27 countries participating (Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea RO, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, U.K., USA and Vietnam), 12 keynote presentations and more than 110 oral/poster presentations all made DAA VI another big success. Six generous sponsors - *Major Sponsor* Farming IntelliGene Tech. Corp., *Sponsors* Intervet, Uni-President Enterprises Corp, and Schering-Plough Animal Health (Aquaculture), and *Supporters* Applied Biosystems and Third World Academy of Sciences - made it possible to sponsor 19 students and young scientists (from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Korea RO, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, USA) a long time tradition of the FHS. The local events organizer – Ace Travel and Conventions Ltd. and the website developer AFFNO, the Local Organizing Committee, the International Scientific Programme Committee, the Sponsorship and Travel Awards Committee, and most especially all DAA VI participants who are members, friends, colleagues, supporters and partners of the FHS – should all be commended for a job well done.

I personally thank the FHS Executive Committee (2002-2005) under the leadership of Dr. Melba B. Reantaso for a job well done and a productive term of office.

On behalf of the FHS Executive Committee (2005-2008) and the members of the FHS-AFS, we are pleased to present the proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VI). I sincerely thank all the authors, reviewers and editors and all who contributed to making this publication a reality. We hope that this sixth volume of the DAA series will continue to provide further insights on aquatic animal health challenges facing the aquaculture sector and mitigating measures and approaches through original research and review papers in our continued quest for maintaining healthy aquatic food production.

Prof. Takashi Aoki
Chairperson, FHS-AFS Executive Committee (2005-2008)
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