

Message from the Editors, DAA VI

A primary requirement for sustaining healthy aquaculture production and responsible product trade is to address health questions with both pro-active and reactive aquatic animal health programmes. The aquaculture sector will continue to be threatened with risks of major disease incursions and newly emerging diseases; and unless appropriate health management measures are continuously put in place and implemented, the government and private sectors will be faced with more costs in terms of production losses and the efforts needed to contain and eradicate diseases, funds that would have been better spent in preventing their entry into the system. It will thus be essential that efforts are channelled towards prevention, on better management practices and on maintaining healthy fish and enhancing biosecurity at all levels of operation. Health management is a shared responsibility, and each stakeholder's contribution is essential to the health management process. The Fish Health Section has a significant role to play in contributing to this process as source of original research and other appropriate health management strategies and through DAA symposia, interaction with fellow researchers/scientists and dissemination and exchange of research and project-related findings.

This sixth volume of the Diseases in Asian Aquaculture series brings together original research and review papers that were presented during the Sixth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VI) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 25-28 October 2005. A total of 45 papers, submitted for inclusion in the proceeding, were sent out to 57 international reviewers. Nine papers were rejected; 36 papers were accepted (with minor and major revisions) forming the contents of this publication.

A voluntary work and a daunting task, we are pleased to be part of this primary publication of our society. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this well-established, standardized series (to-date 6 volumes spanning the close to 20 year history of the FHS) that is well known, easily recognized by its distinctive blue and gold volumes, well cited and held in high opinion by fish health workers throughout the world.

We sincerely thank the international expert-reviewers who generously assisted scientists from less developed countries to bring the scientific quality and English usage of their manuscripts up to international standards. Special thanks also goes to Dr. Suppalak, R. Cajilig, Carlos Trabucco and Magda Morales.

We expect that free downloadable copies of all articles will be available at the same time from the FHS website, in support of the 'open archive movement' intended to make science readily available to all, especially for publicly funded research.

We earnestly hope that members and supporters of FHS will continue to dedicate at least one paper once every three years to assist our society and in support of the FHS long standing tradition of producing DAA proceedings.

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