

Message from the President, Asian Fisheries Society

It is my great pleasure to address the publication of the proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VI) organized by the Fish Health Section (FHS) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) to promote high quality scientific research and the exchange of technical information among government and university scientists, diagnosticians, national policy makers and the members of the private sector.

With the theme “aquatic animal health – facing new challenges”, the DAA VI was successfully held on 25 - 28 October 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and participated by more than 180 delegates from Asia and other parts of the world. Twelve keynote presentations, more than 110 oral/poster presentations and a number of pre- and post-symposium meeting and workshops organized jointly with regional and international organizations made DAA VI a big success. On behalf of the AFS, I would like to congratulate the AFS-FHS on holding DAA VI and publishing the proceedings, and would like to thank the great efforts of the organizing team led by Dr. Melba B. Reantaso, the AFS-FHS executive committee, the Local Organizing Committee by Dr. Rohana P. Subasinghe and many Sri Lankan colleagues, all sponsors and supporters, and all participants especially the contributing authors, reviewing experts and editors.

Asia is the leading aquaculture production region in the world, in terms of both volume and value. Health management of aquatic animals has been an important and critical issue to be addressed in the aquaculture industry especially for Asian aquaculture. To achieve the security and safety of farmed aquatic products as well as the sustainable aquaculture development, we need to be constantly vigilant of advances and innovations in fish health management, diagnosis and control.

The FHS has been taking a lead in the health management of aquatic animals in Asia since it was founded in 1989, through encouraging awareness, providing continuing professional service and training to Asian aquaculturists and upgrading their diagnostic skills and control methods towards the sustainable development of Asian aquaculture.

I strongly recommend the DAA VI proceedings to all aquaculture professionals, researchers, students and commercial operators, as it surely provides a great deal of information and a relevant reference on diseases in aquaculture.

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

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President, Ninth Council of the Asian Fisheries Society (2007-2010)
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