

Message from the Editors, DAA VII

The disease situation in aquaculture is changing rapidly in unpredictable ways due to the current period of rapid change in the international trading environment and globalization. Live animals are moved from place to place, country to country and region to region as broodstock, postlarvae, fry and fingerlings. This expanded and occasionally irresponsible global movements of live aquatic animals have been accompanied by the transboundary spread of a wide variety of disease agents that have caused serious damage to aquatic food productivity and resulted in serious pathogens becoming endemic in culture systems and the natural aquatic environment.

The Asia-Pacific, the dominant aquaculture region in the world has been facing serious threats from aquatic disease emergencies during the last few years. Old and emerging transboundary aquatic animal diseases have continued to challenge the sustainability of the sector. In addition, the use of specific pathogen free (SPF) stocks without appropriate biosecurity support resulted in the introduction of new pathogens exotic to the region.

The Fish Health Section continues to play its important role as a major networking platform and source of information through original research publications and other preventative health management strategies and through the Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA) symposia, where interaction with fellow researchers/scientists and dissemination and exchange of research and project-related findings on aquatic animal health take place.

We are pleased to present this seventh volume of the DAA series which brings together original research and review papers that were presented during the Seventh Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VII) held in Taipei, Taiwan from 22-26 June 2008. A total of 45 papers, submitted for inclusion in the proceeding, were sent out to international expert-reviewers. After a robust review process, 26 papers were finally accepted 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 7 volumes spanning close to the 24-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. We would also like to apologise to all the contributors for any inconvenience resulting from the tedious process which we had to endure.

Special thanks also goes to Dr. Chu Fang Lo, Dr C.V. Mohan and the members of the FHS Executive Committee for their relentless support and Ms Marika Panzironi for various types of assistance to complete this volume.

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.

Getting the DAA series published on time is becoming more and more difficult because of the voluntary nature of the service and because of the lack of a mechanism to efficiently go through the entire publication cycle. We still do not know what will be the fate of the DAA series, but we earnestly hope that members and supporters of FHS will continue to dedicate a portion of their work to this endeavour to assist our society and in support of the FHS long standing tradition of producing DAA proceedings.

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