

FROM THE EDITOR



Figure 1. Prague from the castle

I was able to attend the European Association of Fish Pathology Conference in Prague in September. Prague is a beautiful old city. It was good to see a strong representation from Asia, both in the poster sessions and in the presentations, despite the strained economic times. The value of such conferences, particularly for young researchers should not be underestimated. A highlight of the week, for me, was the associated one day workshop on 'gastrointestinal pathology' of fish.

Hopefully, you are all planning to attend our next conference, in Mangalore, in 2011.

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CONFERENCES

9-12 May 2010. 8th International Sea Lice Conference, Sea Lice 2010, will be held in Victoria, British Columbia Canada. The conference website can be found at <http://www.sealice2010.com>. The Sea Lice 2010 website contains details about the conference, program, registration, abstract submission and more!

For regular email updates and news about the conference sign up for the conference email list via the website.

9-12 June 2010

Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010: farming the waters for people and food

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) and the Department of Fisheries of the Royal Thai Government will co-sponsor the "Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010".

It will be held from 9-12 June 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand and back-to-back with the 5th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, Sub-Committee on Aquaculture to take place from 14-18 June 2010.

The conference website is at <http://www.aqua-conference2010.org/>

July 2010. International Association of Astacology's (IAA) 18 international symposium to be held in Columbia, Missouri, USA. IAA is the international organization dedicated to freshwater crayfish, including ecology/biology, conservation/management, culture, taxonomy and systematics, genetics, **disease and parasites**, behavior, physiology, toxicology, etc. We hold symposiums biennially, generally rotating among the continents of Australia, Europe and North America.

<http://muconf.missouri.edu/IAA18/index.html>.

17-21 January 2011. WAS Asia-Pacific Conference (WAS-APC) will be held in Kochi (Cochin), India. The technical session dates for the WAS conference are 19-21 January. A significant component of the WAS-APC event will be "**Giant prawn 2011**".

Kochi, besides being a significant centre of Indian aquaculture, is a fascinating and beautiful tourist destination.

Details for Giant Prawn 2011: It is planned to organise a technical meeting: (opening ceremony 17 January 2011, session days 18-20 January 2011)

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covering every aspect of freshwater prawn farming, with an additional opportunity to visit local prawn farms (Kerala is an important *Macrobrachium* farming area), on 21 January 2011. There will be keynote speakers on each topic (hatchery, grow-out, nutrition, health. etc.) and there will be opportunities for submitted papers on each topic.

Participants will need to register in the normal way for the WAS-APC meeting. Further details of the parent meeting will become available from WAS in due course. There will be no additional fee for attending Giant Prawn 2011, as it will be a component session of the parent event. However, there will be a charge for attending the post-conference tour(s), as normal.

Participants who wish to present oral or poster papers in Giant Prawn 2011 will be required to submit their abstracts to WAS in the normal manner, clearly marking them as destined for the Giant Prawn 2011 session. Details about this process will become available later. At the moment, it is planned that each presenter of an oral paper will have fifteen minutes to present, plus five minutes for questions. As in all WAS meetings, time-keeping will be controlled by session chairs, who will be expected to be very strict. No speaker will be allowed to continue after 20 minutes.

Please ask anyone that is interested in attending Giant Prawn 2011 to contact me (new.macrobrachium@yahoo.co.uk)

Michael

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www.was.org

Past-President European Aquaculture Society

www.easonline.org

USEFUL INTERNET SOURCES

A useful source for free downloads of old papers can be found at:
<http://www.archive.org/index.php>

In the “search” box, either type in an authors surname or a search word.

Families and Genera of Decapod Crustacea

A recent publication that is a major step forward in our understanding of the Decapod Crustacea:

De Grave, S. et al. 2009. **A classification of living and fossil genera of decapod crustaceans.** The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, supplement 21, pp. 1-109.

Authored by Sammy De Grave and a team of 17 other workers, most of whom are preeminent specialists in the field of decapod systematics and evolution, and funded primarily by the Decapod Crustacean Assembling the Tree of Life (AToL) Project (supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation), the paper is the first-ever catalog of all families and genera of the entire Crustacea Decapoda, including both extant and fossil superfamilies, families, and genera. A further highlight is that all electronic (pdf) versions of the publication contain embedded links for each taxon that connect the user to the correct and verified literature citation wherein the taxon was first described. These links currently direct the reader to the bibliography (including, in some instances, the actual pdf of the paper) on the Decapod Crustacea AToL web site; eventually these same links will point users to the taxon entry on the World Registry of Marine Species (WoRMS) database.

You can access the paper using the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology web site or by clicking on the link below:

<http://decapoda.nhm.org/pdfs/31051/31051.pdf>

Jody Martin

INTERESTING CASES

It is often difficult to find out what work on aquatic animal diseases has been carried out in Asia, because many of the publications, even if they are in English, are in journals or newsletters which have a limited circulation. This Newsletter can

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provide a means for alerting members to the existence of such work.

For example, Thank you to Dr A. Gopalakrishnan from India, who informed me of an interesting report on "**Rough-shell disease of *Penaeus monodon* Fabricius, 1798 in the grow-out ponds**" that can be found in the news letter, **Seshaiyana**, which is available on-line at: [http://www.casmbenvis.nic.in/pdf/seshaiyana16\(3\)2008.pdf](http://www.casmbenvis.nic.in/pdf/seshaiyana16(3)2008.pdf)

FAO/NACA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

These are there to be used!

Six Regional Resource Centres (RRC), were approved by the 16th NACA Governing Council (21-23rd March 2005). The RRCs support the regional aquatic animal health program through the following activities:

- Provision of scientific and technical training for personnel from the region;
- Provision of diagnostic testing facilities to countries who are members of the regional aquatic animal health initiative and their personnel,
- Organisation of scientific meetings, training courses and retraining workshops on behalf of NACA;
- Publication and dissemination of any information in their sphere of competence which may be useful to NACA, AG and countries in the region;
- Communication of an annual report of activities to the NACA secretariat.

How do RRC's work in practice?

The Fish Health laboratory of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Western Australia is one such RRC. Through the initiative we have managed to assist a number of countries with interpretation of histopathology from fixed samples or slides sent to us; provide advice and literature references in difficult cases; and assist with training (usually through our links with Murdoch University),

for example, the two week master class in fish pathology, opened by Prof Sena DeSilva, DG of NACA in Bangkok on 12th November 2007 was supported by the Crawford fund of the Australian Government, Murdoch University and two RRC's - ourselves and the Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute (AAHRI), Department of Fisheries, Thailand). Participants in that masterclass have continued to maintain links and discuss cases through a web-based network.



Figure 2. Students at the Bangkok masterclass in 2007

NACA are always keen to include more laboratories as RRCs.

The Six Regional Resource Centres are:

- The Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute (AAHRI), Department of Fisheries, Thailand.
- The Fish Health Laboratory of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Western Australia, Australia.
- Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fisheries Science, PR China.
- Fisheries College, Ocean University of China, PR China.
- Shenzhen exit-entry Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, Shenzhen, PR China.
- Intervet Norbio Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore.

NACA welcomes expression of interest from aquatic animal health institutions in

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the region to participate in this 'regional resource base' initiative. To know more about this initiative and how to get involved, please contact: [Email: mohan@enaca.org](mailto:mohan@enaca.org)

OTHER NEWS

The 8th meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group (AG) on Aquatic Animal Health is scheduled from **2-4th December 2009**. The AG meeting will be held at the NACA Secretariat based in Bangkok. The meeting will be attended by 10 Advisory Group (AG) members and limited number of resource persons. The AG, constituted by NACA, in cooperation with OIE and FAO, advises Asian governments on aquatic animal health management. Members are experts from government and the private sector with representatives from FAO and the OIE. During the three-day meeting, the AG will address key aquatic animal health issues in Asia, including updates from OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, regional disease reporting systems, emerging aquatic animal disease problems, implementation of the Asia Regional Technical Guidelines and ways to further strengthen regional and international cooperation in Asian aquatic animal health management.

The meeting report will be available for download from the NACA website in January 2010. Download the previous meeting reports from www.enaca.org/health to know more about the work and recommendations of AG.

Become a member of the EOFFI (the European Organisation of Fish Immunology) now!!

The former Nordic Society of Fish Immunology (NOFFI) - now EOFFI - was established in 2007 to encourage the exchange of knowledge between fish immunologists internationally.

The main purpose of the organisation is:-

- To arrange international symposia on fish immunology (which takes place every three years)

- To initiate collaboration among scientists working the field of fish immunology
- To enable mobilisation of young researchers

The first conference of EOFFI will be held in Viterbo, Italy in May 2010. More

information about the meeting can be found at <http://www.unitus.it/eoffi2010>

The Society would like to announce the availability of three travel bursaries for eligible young scientists to attend the conference at Viterbo. Note that only members of the society will be eligible for these travel bursaries. Application forms and details can be found at <http://www.noffi.org/6001/index.html>

Further information about joining the society can be found at <http://www.noffi.org/501.html> or contact the EOFFI treasurer Merete Schröder merete.schroder@nfh.uit.no. The annual fee is NOK 200.

AAHRI of Thailand's Department of Fisheries successfully hosted the FAO Expert Workshop on Improving Biosecurity through Prudent and Responsible Use of Veterinary Medicine (Antimicrobials) in Aquatic Food Production

The Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute/ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres of Thailand's Department of Fisheries locally hosted the FAO Expert Workshop on Improving Biosecurity through Prudent and Responsible Use of Veterinary Medicine (Antimicrobials) in Aquatic Food Production, held at the Rama Gardens Hotel from 15-18 December 2009. The objectives of the expert workshop were: (i) to understand the current status of the use of veterinary medicine (antimicrobials) in aquaculture; (ii) to identify effective and meaningful alternatives to antimicrobial

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use in aquaculture; and (iii) to prepare a draft outline of technical guidelines on the prudent use of veterinary medicine in support of FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) building on past consultations, existing information and new knowledge. The expert workshop was informed by the outcomes of two international surveys and thematic papers as listed below (and presented by a large number of FHS members):

- Public health and trade impacts of antimicrobial use in aquaculture (*Dr Iddya Karunasagar, FAO*)
- Environmental impacts and management of chemicals in aquaculture: the case of salmon aquaculture in Chile (*Dr Sandra Bravo, Chile*)
- Residue control plans: European Union requirements for third countries (*Dr John McEnvoy, European Commission*)
- Results of the FAO international survey on the use of veterinary medicine in aquaculture (*Dr Victoria Alday, FAO Consultant*)
- Results of the international survey on antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture (*Dr Carl Uhland, Canada*)
- Use of veterinary medicine in Thai aquaculture: current status (*Dr Puttharat Baoprasertkul, Thailand*)
- Use of veterinary medicine in Vietnamese aquaculture: current status (*Mr Mai Van Tai, Viet Nam*)
- Use of veterinary medicine in Philippine aquaculture: current status (*Dr Sonia Somga, Philippines*)
- Use of veterinary medicine in Chinese aquaculture: current status (*Dr Yuan Xinhua and Dr Wen Chen, China*)
- Antimicrobial resistance: complexities and difficulties of determination (*Prof. Peter Smith, Ireland*)
- Nitrofurans in freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) in

Bangladesh: what can we do? (*Dr Rohana Subasinghe, FAO*)

- US FDA enforcement strategy for safe aquaculture products (*Ms Barbara Montwill, USA*)
- Regulatory approach to the registration and use of aquaculture drugs in the United States of America (*Dr Jennifer Matysczak, USA*)
- Oral delivery of veterinary medicines through aquafeed in Mediterranean aquaculture (*Dr Carlos Zarza, Skretting*)
- Disease prevention as basis for sustainable aquaculture (*Dr Roar Gudding, Norway*)
- Medicines in aquaculture: a manufacturer's point of view (*Dr Robin Wardle, Intervet-Scherring Plough*)
- Alternatives to antibiotics in aquaculture (*Dr Indrani Karunasagar, India*)
- Good aquaculture practices to minimize bacterial resistance (*Mr Brett Koonse, USA*)
- Summary of the major issues related to the use of veterinary medicine in aquatic food production and guidance provided by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and others (*Dr J Richard Arthur, FAO Consultant*)

The expert workshop was participated by 39 delegates from governments (China, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the United States of America), regional and international organizations (ASEAN, EU, OIE, WHO), universities and research institutes (Kasetsart University-Thailand, University of Montreal-Canada, Universidad Austral de Chile, Croatia Veterinary Institute, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Science University-India, National University of Ireland and Norway Veterinary Institute), private sector (Sureerath-Organic Prawn Farm, Intervet Schering Plough, Thai Aquaculture Business Associate, AllTech, Skretting, Bayer Healthcare and International Federation for Animal Health) with wide ranging

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expertise/discipline in the areas of aquaculture, aquatic animal health, biosecurity, food safety, risk analysis. The expert workshop, opened by FAO Assistant Director-General Dr He Changchui and Dr Somying Piumsombun, Director-General of Thailand's Department of Fisheries (DoF), was divided into 4 sessions (Session 1: The current status chaired by Dr Roar Gudding of Norway; Session 2: The way forward chaired by Prof. Peter Smith of Ireland/OIE; Session III: Working group discussions chaired by Mr Brett Koonse of USA; and Session IV: conclusions and the way forward chaired by Dr Jirawan Yamprayoon, Deputy Director General of Thailand DoF.

Expected outputs of the expert workshop include: (i) technical guidelines on prudent and responsible use of veterinary medicine in aquatic food production in support of FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF); (ii) recommendations on specific actions or follow-up work to be undertaken by FAO and other interested partners and stakeholders; and (iii) expert workshop report and proceedings containing the thematic presentations.

Further information may be obtained from Dr Melba B. Reantaso, FAO Lead Technical Officer of the expert workshop at Melba.Reantaso@fao.org.



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