

Fish Health Section

Asian Fisheries Society

Message from the Chair:

Dear FHS Colleagues,

Warm greetings and New Year wishes!

I am very pleased to accept the role of Chairperson of FHS of the AFS for the period 2011-2014. I would like to assure you that the new team of FHS Exe-Com will commit to work for the cause of FHS and uphold its values and mission. This is the most successful network of aquatic animal health researchers in Asia and this has been demonstrated time and again through the successful conduct of eight DAA symposia over the last 21 years.

I would like to convey my gratitude to Prof Mohd Shariff, Dr Rohana Subashinge and Dr Richard Arthur for introducing me to this wonderful FHS through an invitation to deliver a talk on *status of use of chemotherapeutants in Indian aquaculture* at the 1st Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture in beautiful Bali, Indonesia in 1990. I had just returned to College of Fisheries, Mangalore, India after completing my PhD at the University of Stirling. This is where I met many senior fish health researchers and continue to nurture the networking, communication and information sharing vision of FHS through various means. My passion with FHS grew stronger over the years by my involvement in her many activities, and I am happy to place on record that I attended all the 8 DAA events over the last 21 years.

My strong wish to translate aquatic animal health research to national development plans and field application led me to NACA in 2003.

Moving over from an academic work at the College of Fisheries, Mangalore (my Alma matter) to the intergovernmental NACA based in Bangkok, Thailand in 2003 was both interesting and challenging. For the last 9 years, I have been involved in promoting strong regional aquatic animal health programs in the region with the support and cooperation of many of the FHS members.

Assuming the role of Chairperson of FHS after 21 years of working under her umbrella is very special for me as it happened at DAA8 in Mangalore, where I started my career.

I wish to appeal to all members to support the activities of FHS by contributing to the FHS Newsletter about issues which you think are worth communicating and sharing.

One needs to be a regular member of Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) before becoming an FHS member. There is no additional FHS membership fee. I sincerely request existing FHS members to renew their membership by paying their annual dues. For non-members, please join AFS and get involved in the activities of FHS.

I would like to personally thank all of you for your support to me, my team and FHS, and look forward to your active involvement in FHS activities over the coming years.

We would like to invite all of you to DAA9 in Vietnam in 2014. Hope to see you there.

Wishing you all a very happy new year.

The Executive Committee 2012-2014



The FHS/AFS Executive Committee for the period 2012-2014 was elected during the Ninth Triennial General Meeting (TGM-9) held in Mangalore, India on 23rd Nov 2011 in conjunction with the Eighth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VIII), a triennial symposia organized by the FHS. From left: Rajeev Kumar Jha, Leigh Owens, Ikuo Hirono, P.K. Sahoo, Edgar Amar, Le Van Khoa, CV Mohan, Darshanee Ruwandeeepika, Grace Chu-Fang Lo, P.K.Pradhan, Susan Gibson-Kueh, Elena Catap

The elected officials are:



Chairperson
 Prof CV Mohan (India)
 E-mail: mohan@enaca.org

Dr CV Mohan is the present Research and Development Program Manager of NACA. He received his PhD from the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, UK in 1990 in the area of aquatic animal pathology. Since 1982, he has been involved with aquatic animal health and aquaculture teaching and research at the College of Fisheries, Mangalore, India. In December 2000, he became Professor of Fish Pathology at the same institute. In March 2003, Dr Mohan was appointed as the Coordinator of Aquatic Animal Health Program of NACA and has been instrumental in managing the regional

aquatic animal health program in 21 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. As R&D Manager of NACA since Feb 2009, he manages the regional R&D program. His expertise includes aquatic animal health management, fish and shrimp pathology, epidemiology, surveillance and risk management, responsible and sustainable small-scale aquaculture, development and implementation of better management practices, farmer group formation and aquaculture certification. He has over 28 years of teaching, research and development experience and has authored and co-authored over 100 papers.



Vice Chairperson
 Dr Le Van Khoa (Vietnam)
 Email: Lvkhoa@dah.gov.vn

Division of Aquatic Animal Health
 Mgt, Department of Animal Health
 Hanoi, Vietnam

Vice Chairperson profile:

Dr Le Van Khoa obtained a B.Sc in Aquaculture in 1997 from Hanoi Agriculture University and Nha Trang University of Fisheries, and Ph.D in Veterinary Medicine from Nippon Veterinary and Animal Science University, Tokyo, Japan in 2005. He was Research Scientist, Department of Aquatic Animal Health Research, Research Institute for Aquaculture No.1 from 1997-2006, and Head, Department of Fish Disease Laboratory, Research Institute for Aquaculture No.1 from 2007-2008. Currently, he is OIE/NACA National Focal Point for Aquatic Animal Diseases and Head, Division of Aquatic Animal Health Management, Department of Animal Health in Hanoi. His research areas are in fungal diseases of shrimp, bacterial and parasitic diseases of red-drum and his experience include BMP/ GAP/biosecurity systems, development of national aquatic animal health management, sustainable aquaculture, and teaching/ postgraduate supervision at Hanoi University of Agriculture and Vinh University from 2006.

Members:

Prof Chu-Fang Lo (Taiwan)
 Prof Ikuo Hirono (Japan)
 Dr Huang Jie (China)
 Dr P.K. Sahoo (India)
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Exe Com profiles:



Secretary-Treasurer

Dr Puttharat Baoprasertkul
 puttharat@hotmail.com

Dr. Puttharat Baoprasertkul is currently Fisheries biologist and Head of PCR Laboratory at Inland Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute (IAAHRI), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Thailand. She obtained her PhD from Auburn University, USA in 2006. She started her career as Fisheries biologist at National Aquaculture Genetic Research Institute (NAGRI) in 1992, and then moved to IAAHRI in 2007. Her research has mainly been on molecular genetics, expressions of immune related genes and aquatic animal diseases. She has published more than 20 papers in peer-reviewed journals. She was recently invited to be a consultant on diagnostic technique for “Regional Training for Capacity Building in Laboratory Diagnosis and Surveillance Program for IMNV in ASEAN Member Countries” in Indonesia, funded by FAO.



Prof. Grace Chu-Fang Lo
 gracelow@ccms.ntu.edu.tw

Since 1994, Grace’s collaborative work with Prof. Guang-Hsiung Kou has focused on the study of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV), which is the causative agent of one of the world’s most serious shrimp diseases. The scope of her research includes not only the virus itself, but extends to viral transmission and control. Under her guidance, her laboratory has developed WSSV screening technology and a PCR diagnostic kit that is now widely used by researchers as well as by the aquaculture industry. Grace continues to work on the molecular pathogenesis of WSSV and on host-virus interactions. She currently heads two OIE reference laboratories: one is for white spot disease and the other is for spherical baculovirus.



Prof. Ikuo Hirono
hirono@kaiyodai.ac.jp

Prof. Ikuo Hirono obtained his PhD from Kagoshima University in 1993, did a postdoctoral fellowship (JSPS) at Tokyo University of Fisheries in 1993-1994 and was a research scholar at Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University in 1998. He was Assistant Professor, Laboratory of Genetics and Biochemistry, Graduate School of Fisheries Science, Tokyo University of Fisheries from 1994-2002, and Associate Professor, Tokyo University of Fisheries, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology from 2002-2009. He is Professor, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology from 2009. He is co-editor in chief of Fish and Shellfish Immunology and an editorial board member for Developmental and Comparative Immunology. His main research area is WSSV homologues in the shrimp genome, shrimp immune system and development of DNA vaccines.



Dr. Jie Huang
huangjie@ysfri.ac.cn

Dr. Jie Huang obtained his BSc on virology from Wuhan University in 1987, his MSc from the Wuhan Virology Institute, Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) in 1990, and did his PhD on marine biology at the Ocean Institute, CAS in 2004. He is the Head of the Maricultural Disease Control and Molecular Pathology Laboratory, Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, and OIE expert for White spot disease (WSD) and Infectious and haematopoietic necrosis (IHHN). The laboratory was designated as the Regional

OIE Reference Laboratories for WSD and IHHN in 2011. He has been conducting research projects on the diagnostics, epidemiology, molecular mechanism of virus infection, and control technology for WSD and other aquatic animal diseases for more than 20 years. In recent years, his laboratory has established a series of detection techniques, including gene probe, PCR, LAMP and gene chips, for different aquatic animal pathogens and national standards for shrimp diseases diagnosis. His group has also developed rapid detection kits for a dozen aquatic animal pathogens, nonspecific immune-enhancements and disease resistant bacteria for shrimp disease prevention, and marine fish vaccines for *Vibrio* spp. and *Edwardsiella tarda*.



Dr. P.K. Sahoo
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Dr P.K. Sahoo is currently working as ICAR National Fellow-cum-Senior Scientist in Fish Pathology at the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar, India. He has more than 18 years of research experience in freshwater fish disease diagnosis and health management. His research mostly focuses on development of molecular diagnostics and production of newer molecules/prophylactics for disease prevention in freshwater aquaculture. He has been associated with several national and international projects. He has guided several masters and Ph. D students, and is having more than 60 international publications to his credit. He is co-editor of two books on fish immunology and fish health management. His contributions to argulosis survey in Indian aquaculture, exploration of innate immune system of Indian carps, catfish and freshwater prawn is noteworthy.

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Dr. S. Gibson-Kueh
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Dr. Susan Gibson-Kueh is a fish pathologist with a BVSc from the University of Sydney (1990), an MSc in Aquatic Veterinary Studies from the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling (2001) and is currently completing her PhD on 'Diseases of *Lates calcarifer*' at Murdoch University, Australia. She was with the Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory, AgriFood & Veterinary Authority of Singapore from 1995 to 2007 and has many years of working experience with the Asian aquaculture industry in the area of disease diagnosis, management and control. She currently teaches aquatic animal health at the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Murdoch University and is Director, TwoFish 5000 which specialises in professional consultations and training in aquatic animal health. She has published in international journals and conducted several training workshops in the area of fish pathology.



Dr. P.K. Pradhan
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Dr P.K.Pradhan is a Senior Scientist (Fish Pathology) at the Fish Health Management Division of National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), Lucknow, India. He was Assistant Professor at the college of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University, Agartala, Tripura, India from 2002-2008. His research interest includes understanding molecular mechanism of pathogenicity of *Aphanomyces invadans* infection in fishes and developing strategies to reduce losses due to epizootic ulcerative syndrome in freshwater fish farms.



Dr. D. Ruwandeepika
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Dr. Drashanee Ruwandeepika obtained the degree of Bachelor in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in January 2002 and a Master of Science degree in Aquaculture at the Laboratory of Aquaculture & Artemia Reference Center (ARC), Ghent University, Belgium in 2005. In December 2010 she finished the PhD in Applied Biological Sciences, from Ghent University, Belgium. Her research was on *in vivo* and *in vitro* virulence gene expression of *Vibrio harveyi*. She is the author/coauthor of research articles in international peer-reviewed journals and several text books. She has been working as an academic member in the Department of Livestock Production, Faculty of Agricultural sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.



Dr. Rajeev Kumar Jha
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Dr Rajeev Kumar Jha did his Masters on developing a latex agglutination kit for *Aeromonas*, PhD on recombinant vaccines against WSSV and was Post-Doctorate Fellow at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. His work included an impact study on farming systems in NGO project villages, monoculture shrimp and polyculture shrimp/tilapia or shrimp/milkfish ponds. His project on "Integrated Management through Fish, Duck and Pig culture in Rice Farming Systems" funded by World Bank was awarded best NATP project in India. Rajeev currently heads the Farm Shrimp Health Division of Central ProteinaPrima (CPP) Farm operations, and oversees disease diagnostics at farm and hatchery stations. His research covers shrimp/fish pathogens and remedial measures such as vaccine and probiotics. He has 12 oral presentation and more than 22 research articles in peer reviewed journals. He was awarded for his work on developing 25 indigenous techniques patented by Indigenous Technology Knowledge (ITK), ICAR, India.

Overview OF DAAs past & present

FHS is now recognized as one of the most successful networks in Asia and the DAA events are much sought after by aquatic animal health researchers to showcase their research. What started in Bali, Indonesia in 1990 in a small way has moved through Phuket, Thailand (1993), Bangkok, Thailand (1996), Cebu, The Philippines (1999), Gold Coast, Australia (2002), Colombo, Sri Lanka (2005), Taipei, Taiwan (2008) and now Mangalore, India (2011).

The Eighth Symposium on “Diseases in Asian Aquaculture” (DAA8) was held at the Milagres Church Hall in Mangalore on 21-25 November, 2011. DAAs are held once in 3 years in a country in the Asian Pacific region. The DAA8 conference Secretariat was headed by Dr. Indrani Karunasagar and Dr K M Shankar with their team from College of Fisheries Mangalore, Karnataka Animal Science and Fisheries University, India. FHS Execom headed by Prof. Grace Lo and the International Scientific Program Committee headed by Dr C V Mohan coordinated various activities in the one year period leading up to the DAA8 in Mangalore.

The event was inaugurated by Joint Secretary of the Union Agriculture Ministry and graced by FHS Chairperson, NACA Director-General, FAO Director of Fisheries Policy Services, Vice Chancellor of Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar and Dean (Fisheries) who is also Chairperson of DAA 8. An inaugural dinner was held in Hotel Mothi Mahal.

116 scientists from 22 countries and a total of 200 local fish health scientists, not counting the hundreds of post



A blessing ceremony at the DAA8 opening



Appreciation of veteran, Prof. HPC Shetty, first Dean of the College of Fisheries, Mangalore

Cultural dance by children of the College of Fisheries staff members



One of the many sumptuous meals

graduate students from India attended the 5-day symposium. Indian institutions such as Coastal Aquaculture Authority, CIFA Bhubaneswar, CIBA Chennai, CMFRI Cochin and NBFGR Lucknow exhibited their activities at booths during the symposium. Representatives from a good number of international companies involved in aquatic products such as GeneReach, PHARMAQ, Virbac India, Novus International and Intervet Singapore attended DAA8.

The theme of DAA 8 was “Fish Health for Food Security”. Over the 5 days, 4 thematic, 24 key note and 47 contributed papers were presented in 13 technical sessions covering disease, diagnostics, vaccines, genomics, disease preparedness and national plans. There were also 170 poster presentations.



Attendance going strong at Day 4 into DAA8



The exceptional quality of the oral presentations kept all minds engaged.



The poster sessions are equally well attended



A tale told by the teacher and her group of students at the DAA8 banquet night to a captivated audience.

A banquet was held at Taj Manjuran Hotel at the close of DAA8 on 24 Nov, and attended by 400 delegates. Awards were given for the best poster in separate categories during the closing conference dinner. Two cultural events and three sight-seeing visits to local temples, National parks and the famous Mangalore beach were enjoyed by participants during the week.



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Announcements:

Conferences

Skretting Australasian Aquaculture 2012, 1-4 May, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

For more information, go to http://www.aquaculture.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=54

Hosted by National Aquaculture Council and the Asian Pacific Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society

Conference Coordinator: Sarah-Jane Day

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8th International Abalone Symposium (IAS 2012) from 6 to 11 May 2012 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Australia

For more information, go to

<http://www.cdesign.com.au/ias2012/>

Books

DAA conference proceedings

Copies of the previous DAA conference proceedings are available for the cost of postage from the FHS secretariat. At the time of this newsletter release, DAA III (105 copies), DAA IV (8), DAA V (134) and DAA VI (11+226*) are available.

*87 copies with CD and 139 copies without CD available - please contact Dr Elena Catap at the Institute of Biology, University of the Philippines, Quezon City at escatap@gmail.com.

Fish Vetting Essentials (2011)

The revised 2011 edition is a comprehensive resource that incorporates 50 new pages of the latest research based information and best practice guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of common fish diseases.

For more information, go to

www.thefishvet.com.au

Next Issue of the FHS Newsletter

DAAVIII student travel & poster awards

5 were awarded travel awards/ grants from the organizers for attending the DAA8. 15 best poster awards were given to students, young researchers and their supervisors.

More details on the poster awards will be included in the next FHS newsletter.

Feature articles on aquatic animal health activities in Asia

Feature profiles of remaining Exe Com members & observers

Please send in articles you would like featured in the newsletter to the editor:

Dr Susan Gibson-Kueh

Email: S.Kueh@murdoch.edu.au or

Susan.Kueh@gmail.com

People news

If you would like to let your fellow researchers know of your whereabouts and new adventures, drop me a line or two with your new contact details. Ed.