

Fish Health Section Conference: From the Pillars to the Next

Prepared by Eduardo M Leño, Secretary/Treasurer, FHS

September 2023

The Fish Health Section Conference: From the Pillars to the Next was successfully held on 6-8 September 2023 at Swissotel Bangkok Ratchada, Bangkok, Thailand. Initially coined as “handover conference” and with the theme “Learning from the past to inform the future”, the event gathered 17 FHS pillars which include founding members and past officers/members of Executive Committee (ExeCom). Headed by Dr. Richard Arthur (Canada) who founded the Asian Fish Health Network (under IDRC project) which eventually gave birth to the FHS, the pillars had a great reunion and catching-up, gave advises, and shared their experiences with the younger generation of fish health enthusiasts. The Conference was attended by 158 participants/ students from 16 countries around the world including Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam. A total of 35 abstracts were received, and these were delegated to 20 oral presentations and 15 poster presentations.



Participants of the FHS Conference 2023 during the Opening Session.

In the opening session, Dr. Melba Reantaso (FAO) gave a brief backgrounder of the Conference on how it was conceptualized. Welcome messages were then delivered by Dr. Eduardo Leño (Secretary/Treasurer of FHS) representing Dr. Kua Beng Chu (Chairperson of FHS), Dr. Jie Huang (Director General of NACA), and Dr. Murni Marlina Binti Abd. Karim (Secretary of AFS) representing Prof. Neil Loneragan (President of AFS). Mr. Chalermchai Suwannarak (Director general of DOF Thailand) delivered the opening remarks and officially declared the conference open.



Introductory and welcome messages delivered by Dr. Melba Reantaso, Dr. Eduardo Leño, Dr. Jie Huang, and Dr. Murni Marlina Binti Abd. Karim.



The Conference was officially opened by Mr. Chalermchai Suwannarak (DG of DOF-Thailand)

The pillars were then introduced to the participants before the informal meet and greet, so as to name faces especially for the younger generation. Everyone were then invited to engage in discussions with the pillars and the rest of the participants. Poster viewing (with presenting authors) was also done during the informal session.



The 17 FHS pillars introduced to the participants of the Conference.



Poster presentations during the Conference.

The FHS Showcase featured the history and journey of the Section based on the experiences of the pillars. A video presentation was prepared by Drs. Melba Reantaso and Dr. Richard Arthur, while a more personal sharing was delivered by Dr. Celia Lavilla-Pitogo. Drs. Rohana Subasinghe, Leong Tak Seng, Supraneer Chinabut and Erlinda Lacierda also shared their journey with the FHS. Representing the younger generation were Joseph Carlo Vergel (Philippines), Cong-Yan Chen (Taiwan), Xiaomeng Guo (China), Dr. Sandra Catherine Zainathan (Malaysia) and Dr. Jiraporn Jarungsriapisit (Thailand). Here, they shared their current activities on fish health and what they thought of the Section in general. Pillars who were not able to attend in-person shared their messages through written (Drs. Gilda Lio-Po, Kiyokuni Muroga and Ian Anderson) and video (Drs. Hambali Supriyadi, C.V. Mohan and Faizah Shaharom) messages.



Dr. Gilda D. Lio-Po
Philippines
Founding Member: AFS and FHS
Member: First Executive Committee

FHS Meeting Message

Greetings to all Fish Health friends and colleagues!

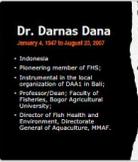
Too bad that I am unable to be with you physically during this important meeting due to conflict of schedule viz-a-viz family trip that my children organized and financed. Nevertheless, I wish you a fruitful and successful social/scientific interactions.

All the best to you all!!!



Written (Dr. Gilda Lio-Po) and video (Dr. C.V. Mohan) messages from some pillars who were not able to attend the Conference in person.

Dear departed pillars were also honored: Dr. Takahisa Kimura (Japan); Dr. Darnas Dana (Indonesia); Dr. Lee-Hong Susan Lim (Malaysia); Prof. Donald V. Lightner (USA); Prof. Kishio Hatai (Japan); Dr. Pan Jin Pei (China); Dr. Akhmad Rukyani (Indonesia); and, Dr. Hariyadi Manguwirya (Indonesia).

 <p>Dr. Takahisa Kimura March 20, 1929 – January 8, 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan Professor Emeritus/Dean of Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University Instrumental in the local organization of OMAS in Hokkaido Professor/Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Shizuoka Agricultural University Director of Fish Health and Environment, Directorate General of Aquaculture, MARAF Multi-awarded Scientist 	 <p>Dr. Darnas Dana January 4, 1947 to August 20, 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia Pioneering member of FHS Instrumental in the local organization of OMAS in Bali Professor/Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Sepren Agriculture University Director of Fish Health and Environment, Directorate General of Aquaculture, MARAF 	 <p>Dr. Lee-Hong Susan Lim February 14, 1948 – August 2, 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaysia Member, Third Executive Committee From Faculty of Science, University of Malaya Fish parasitologist who specialized on the diagnosis of disease in important aquaculture systems First and only Malaysian contributor elected to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature Leading programmes awarded in Southeast Asia 	 <p>Prof. Donald V. Lightner 1918-2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Founded the Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory at The University of Arkansas Research Institute for Veterinary Medicine and Research Institute for Aquaculture and Fish Diseases Approved laboratory for Invertebrate Disease Diagnosis Lightner and his team led the discovery of important agents (SV, PKWV and AHNV) Supervised and trained hundreds of students and scientists worldwide
 <p>Prof. Kishio Hatai April 14, 1918 – August 18, 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan One of the most famous Japanese national scientists Globally recognized for his expertise related to specific organ health and particularly target diseases of aquatic species A devoted supporter of FHS DNA services Advisor to hundreds of students worldwide A prolific developer of affinity and excellence in his field 	 <p>Dr. Pan Jin Pei October 10, 1948 – August 18, 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China Founding member of FHS Member, First Executive Committee Researcher at the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences Past Guest Lecturer at Sun Yat-sen University and Qinghai Ocean University 	 <p>Dr. Akhmad Rukyani October 10, 1948 – August 18, 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia Founding member of FHS Member, First Executive Committee Member, National Organizing Committee of OMAS, Bali, 1978 One of the Teaching Lectures of Indonesian Institute of Fish Health and Aquaculture Academy of Sciences Regional Invertebrate Fish Quarantine Services Team leader and head of Fish Disease Laboratory, Institute of Aquaculture, Freshwater Fisheries (IP2F), Bogor Emergent and Director of Institute of Fish Health and Environment (IP2H), Fisheries, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries 	 <p>Dr. Hariyadi Manguwirya 1918-2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia Founding Member of FHS Pioneered fish health work in Indonesia through Research Institute for Veterinary Medicine (RIMV) and Research Institute for Aquaculture and Fish Diseases (IAFD) Member of the Indonesian Society for Freshwater Fisheries (ISFF) in Bogor

In memory of FHS pillars who passed away.

A video recap of the recently held DAA 11 was then presented, together of the DAA 12 teaser which will happen in August 2025 in Chennai, India. Prof. Mohamed Shariff then presented a lecture on the importance of publication especially with the Asian Fisheries Science, the official journal of the parent society AFS.

A welcome dinner was hosted by the DOF-Thailand with cultural presentation.



Thai traditional dance during the welcome dinner hosted by DOF-Thailand.

Plenary sessions (plenary presentations and panel discussion) were held on day 2 of the Conference, featuring experts on finfish and shrimp health as listed below:

Finfish Health:

Prof. Ikuo Hirono

Fish Immunology Research for Fish Vaccine Development

Dr. Andy Shinn

Translocation of tilapia's tiny terrors: Nile tilapia and its parasites

Assoc. Prof. Win Surachetpong

New Challenges, New Solutions: Mitigating Emerging Diseases in Aquatic Animal Health

Mr. Amorn Luengnaruemitchai

Practical Biosecurity Measures in Tilapia Hatchery



Shrimp Health:

Prof. Chalor Limsuwan

Challenges and Diseases Management in Shrimp Aquaculture

Prof. Grace Chu-Fang Lo

Passing on the Torch of Wisdom in Shrimp Aquaculture Research

Prof. Han-Ching Wang

Taking up the Torch of Wisdom: An Interdisciplinary Cooperation of Science, Implementation and Vision for Shrimp Aquaculture

Dr. Kallaya Sritunyalucksana

Scientific, Technological and Social Solutions for Sustainable Aquaculture



Day 3 of the Conference featured oral presentations from the younger generation of researchers and students. Out of the 20 presentations, seven (7) were from students who were judged based on the overall content and clarity of presentations as well as the question and answer session. The panel of judges is composed of Dr. James L. Torres (Philippines), Dr. Janejit Kongkumnerd (Thailand), and Dr. Stephen Pyecroft (Australia). The winners are:

- **Hiraoki Saito** (Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Japan): *Cell-mediated and Humoral Immune Responses of Goldfish after Live-attenuated virus Vaccination and High-Water Temperature Treatment against Herpesviral Hematopoietic Necrosis (HVHN)*
- **Cong-Yan Chen** (National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan): *White Spot Syndrome Virus Facilitates and Relies on host de novo Nucleotide Synthesis to Support Viral Pathogenesis*
- **Suwimon Paimeeka** (Kasetsart University, Thailand): *Novel Multiplex PCR Assay for the Detection of Three Major Viruses Affecting Global Tilapia Aquaculture*



Winners of Best Student Oral Presentations (L-R): Hiraoki Saito (Japan), Cong-Yan Chen (Taiwan) and Suwimon Paimeeka (Thailand).

Closing messages and remarks were delivered by Dr. Janejit Kongkumnerd, representing DOF-Thailand, and Dr. Kua Beng Chu, Chairperson of the FHS.