



# Fish Health Section

## Asian Fisheries Society

### Message from the Chair

Warm Greetings and Welcome to Our Community!

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates and news from the Fish Health Section of the Asian Fisheries Society.

First, we are delighted to announce the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> Diseases in Asian Aquaculture symposium, scheduled to take place in Chennai, India during September 27-29, 2025. Mark your calendars and join us for this highly anticipated event, which will feature esteemed speakers from academia and industry experts discussing the latest advancements and research in the aquatic animal health. This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights and network with peers. Don't miss out! Register early for our special student delegate registration fees.

Next, we are proud to introduce a special issue dedicated to our previous DAA11 symposium, published in Malaysian Fisheries Journal, Volume 24. This issue is now available on our FHS website and showcases the research presented during the event.

Lastly, we would like to extend a big congratulations to our community members who have been recognized with prestigious awards for their innovative contributions to the field of aquaculture. These outstanding individuals have shared their experience and knowledge as resource persons, keynote speakers, panelists, or guests of honor at various events and platforms. We invite you to explore the list of award winners in our eNewsletter (page 6-7) and hope that their dedication and achievements continue to inspire us all.

Thank you for being a valued part of our scientific community. We look forward to sharing more exciting news and advancements with you!

Best wishes for 2025!

**Dr. Kua Beng Chu**

Chairperson, FHS Executive Committee (2022-2025)

E-mail: kuaben01@dof.gov.my



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### Upcoming Event-The 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA12), India

September 23-27, 2025

The Fish Health Section (FHS) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai, India will host the 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA12) during September 23-27,

2025 at Chennai, the vibrant city of Tamil Nadu, India. Renowned for its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches, and historical landmarks like Mahabalipuram, Chennai offers an exceptional setting for fostering the exchange of knowledge and innovation.

The theme for DAA 12 is “Transformative Innovations Shaping the Future of Aquatic Animal Health Management”. Under the theme, the 5 days-long deliberation promises an engaging lineup of 7 technical sessions designed to showcase the latest advancements and research in aquatic animal health. Topics for some of the key sessions are Finfish and Shellfish Health, One Health and Aquatic Animal Biosecurity, Aquatic Animal Epidemiology, Disease Surveillance, and Reporting, New Emerging Technologies in aquatic animal health management. These sessions will feature expert speakers from around the globe for providing invaluable insights into critical areas of aquatic animal health management. Each session is designed to foster discussion, share cutting-edge research, and explore innovative solutions for the challenges in aquaculture. DAA12 will continue the legacy of advancing aquatic animal health research, following previous symposia.

We warmly invite researchers, industry professionals, academia, and students to join this exciting symposium and collaborate on sustainable solutions for aquaculture’s future. Mark your calendar and prepare to immerse yourself in cutting-edge science and rich cultural experiences in DAA12 at Chennai, India!



Session	Name of the Speaker
Inauguration Session	Keynote Presentation
Technical session -I	New emerging technologies
Technical session -II	Finfish health
Technical session -III	Shrimp health
Technical session -IV	Molluscs and Seaweeds Health
Technical session -V	Aquatic Animal Epidemiology, Disease Surveillance and Reporting
Technical session -VI	One Health and Aquatic Animal Biosecurity
Technical session -VII	Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnostics, Prophylactics and Therapeutics

Showcasing our technical sessions and the keynote speakers for DAA12.





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### 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health

November 14-15, 2024

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (AGM 23) was organized by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) during 14-15 November 2024 in a fully virtual platform. The meeting was attended by 11 members and co-opted members including experts from the region and representatives of NACA partner organizations (FAO-



HQ, WOAHH-RRAP, WOAHH-AAHSC, SEAFDEC AQD, and INVE Aquaculture); and, 15 observers from National Parks Board (Singapore), Norwegian Veterinary Institute (Norway), Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute (China) and representatives of NACA member countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, P.R. China, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka.

Important updates and issues on aquatic animal health management in the Asia-Pacific region were discussed including:

- Progress since AGM 22 (**Dr. Eduardo Leñaño, NACA**)
- Updates from WOAHH Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (**Dr. Ingo Ernst, AAHSC, WOAHH**)
- Aquaculture Biosecurity (PMP/AB) and FAO's AAH Initiatives in the AP region (**Dr. Melba Reantaso, FAO**)
- Updates on WOAHH Asia-Pacific Network on Aquatic Animal Health (AP-AquaNet) (**Dr. Thitiwan Patanasatienkul, WOAHH-RRAP**)
- Recent Updates of Farm-level Aquatic Animal Health Management (**Dr. Andy Shinn, INVE Aquaculture**)
- Application of risk analysis at the farm-level (**Dr. Yuko Hood, DAFF Australia**)
- Methodology for Assessing Biosecurity Risk in Small-Scale Farms: Experience from Colombia (**Dr. Maria Fernanda Serrano dela Cruz, NVI**)
- AMR in Aquaculture: Importance of Epidemiological Cutoff Values for Aquatic Animal Health Antimicrobial Sensitivity Testing (**Dr. Biyun Ching, NParks**)
- AP Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting (status and new proposal) and Disease List (**Dr. Eduardo Leñaño, NACA; Dr. Thitiwan Patanasatienkul, WOAHH-RRAP**)
- Emerging Disease: Translucent Post-larvae Disease (TPD) (**Dr. Qingli Zhang; YSFRI**)

The report of the meeting is being prepared and will be published at NACA website ([www.enaca.org](http://www.enaca.org)) within the first quarter of 2025.



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### International Hands-on Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance

**November 18-22, 2024**

United Nations has declared November 18-24 as Antibiotic awareness week. The theme of this Antibiotic Awareness Week in 2024 was Educate, Advocate, Act Now. In line with the terms of reference of FAO Reference Center, Nitte University, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated antibiotic awareness week by organizing an international hands on Workshop on “Utilising microbiome and genomic resources for understanding and mitigating antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture in one health context”. Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR was the Chief Guest and Dr. Eduardo Leano, Director General, Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA) based in Thailand was the Guest of Honour. Other Guests of Honour included Dr. Karthikeyan, Director, MPEDA and Dr. Robin Paul, FAO India. FAO Headquarters in Rome was represented by Dr. Melba Reantaso and FAO Reference Center in UK was represented by Dr. Athina Papadopoulou and the US Reference Center was represented by Dr. Hossam Abdelhamed from Mississippi State University, USA. The Vice Chancellor, Dr. M.S. Moodithaya delivered the opening remarks. The Workshop had resource persons from Italy - Dr. Amedeo Manfrin and Dr. Luana Cortinovis and India. Delegates from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Zambia attended this workshop. The Principal investigators of ICAR Network project on antimicrobial resistance were among the participants. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Iddya Karunasagar and Dr. Indrani Karunasagar from Nitte University.



Day one focused on learning from international and national experiences and there were talks from FAO, WHO and from various countries. Dr. Jena gave a talk on the activities supported in India including the National Surveillance Programme on Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) and the Fish Health Network. There were lectures from Dr. Anuj Sharma, WHO India and Dr. Pragya Yadav, Director, One Health Institute, India. Dr. Karthikeyan explained about Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) activities related to antimicrobial resistance. One representative from each country spoke about their national experiences.





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Day two had both lecture and practical sessions. There were lectures from Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter from EUCAST Development laboratory, Sweden and Dr. Manfrin Amedeo from Instituto Zooprofilattico, Venice, Italy. Dr Athina Papadopoulou from Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), UK spoke about use of epidemiological cutoff points from CLSI and EUCAST. Dr. Gaurav Rathore from ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) explained about the Indian Network on Fisheries and Animal Antimicrobial Resistance (INFAAR) project. The practical sessions were on standardized way of performing antimicrobial susceptibility testing and understanding about Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) methods and breakpoints to differentiate susceptible and resistant strains. Dr. Luana Cortinovia, Dr. Athina Papadopoulou and Dr. Juliet Mohanraj conducted the practical sessions.



Day three to five involved practical sessions on whole genome sequencing methods, analyzing whole genome data, identifying genes responsible for antimicrobial resistance, mobile genetic elements

like plasmids, transposons, integrin gene cassettes. The resource persons included Dr Divya Shetty from Zelle Biotechnology Pvt. Ltd., Ms Ankita Kumari and Mr. Ashwin Krishna from Biokart India, Dr. Jayasheelan Murugaiyan from SRM University, Dr. Anirban Chakraborty, Dr. Biswajit Maiti, Dr Praveen Rai, Dr. Krishna Kumar, Dr. Deekshit from Nitte University Center for Science Education and Research (NUCSEER).

The Workshop was supported by UNESCO, Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, UK, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and MPEDA.





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### Recognition and Achievements

We take great pride in recognizing our esteemed members, Eduardo Leano, Agus Sunarto and Kua Beng Chu for their remarkable contributions as resource persons and honoured guests at various events. As invited speakers, they have effectively shared their insights and expertise, significantly enriched our collective understanding and fostered meaningful discussions.

#### **Eduardo Leano**

- Resource speaker: WOAHP Regional Workshop on Preparedness and Response for Emerging Diseases of Aquatic Animals. 29-30 October 2024, Singapore
- Resource speaker: WOAHP Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture. 31 October - 1 November 2024, Singapore
- Guest of Honor: International Hands-On Training Course: Utilising microbiome and genomic resources for understanding and mitigating antimicrobial resistance in the One Health context. 18-22 November 2024, Mangalore, India
- Guest of Honor: International Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture, 21-16 October, Chitwan, Nepal
- Invited Speaker: FishVet+ Dialogue II. FAO, Rome, Italy
- Invited Lecturer: Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University. 10-11 March 2024, Ludhiana, Punjab, India
- Invited Speaker: Shrimp Health Workshop. 15-16 February 2024, Department of Fisheries, Thailand

#### **Agus Sunarto**

- Invited speaker: OECD Conference "Bridging Selective Breeding and Cutting-edge Biotechnologies: Transformative Technology Innovations for Strengthening Aquaculture Resilience", 28-30 October 2024, Tokyo, Japan.

#### **Kua Beng Chu**

- Invited speaker- Fish Diseases & Parasitology: Perspectives in Malaysia and zoonotic implications, 2 December 2024, Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine (MSTPM) Webinar





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Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that Joseph Carlo Vergel, a member of the FHS, has received well-deserved recognition for his outstanding accomplishments. His unwavering commitment to excellence has culminated in receiving the President's Award from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology Japan, along with accolades for Excellence in Academics and Sciences from the Municipal Government of San Rafael Bulacan Philippines. These honours celebrate Joseph's hard work and dedication.



**Recognition from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology Japan (The President's Award) to Joseph Carlo Vergel for excellence in his research studies.**

Last but certainly not least, we are proud to congratulate Kua Beng Chu for receiving the Excellence in Aquaculture Academia award from the Malaysian Aquaculture Association, which recognizes her significant contributions to local aquaculture.



**Recognition from the Malaysian Aquaculture Association to Kua Beng Chu for her contributions to the local aquaculture**

Congratulations to all our members for their outstanding achievements! Your dedication and commitment continue to inspire us all.





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### Aquatic Animal Health Workshops in Singapore Address Emerging Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with Singapore's National Parks Board, hosted two key workshops on aquatic animal health from October 29 to November 1, 2024, at the Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium. Representatives from 22 countries, private companies, WOAH Reference centers (CAHS, UPEI and Cefas) and international organizations (FAO, NACA, WorldFish, and SPC FAME) participated.

#### Workshop on Emerging Diseases in Aquatic Animals

The first workshop, focused on preparedness and response for emerging diseases in aquatic animals, marked WOAH's inaugural event dedicated to this critical topic. Financially supported by



the Australian Government, the event explored effective emergency response strategies, challenges posed by emerging diseases, and national experiences from Indonesia, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Discussions emphasized regional strengths, coordination, and resources necessary for improving disease prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

#### Workshop on Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Aquaculture

The second workshop, funded by the European Union and Fleming Funds, was WOAH's first event fully dedicated to antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in aquaculture in Asia-Pacific. Highlights included a visit to an ornamental fish farm to observe integrated health measures, discussions on AMU data collection, alternatives to antimicrobials, and barriers to effective reporting. Participants gained insights into challenges and solutions for sustainable AMU-AMR practices in the aquaculture sector.





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These workshops reflect WOA's commitment to strengthening aquatic animal health systems and fostering collaboration across the region.

## Special Editions for DAA11 publications

Two special editions of Malaysian Fisheries Journal have been published, and these provide a platform to young researchers gathered for the 11<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture held in Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia to publish their findings. The first edition was published in 2022 as volume 21, issue no. 2.



[https://www.fhs-afs.net/pdf/pub/4.Special\\_Edition\\_MFJ3eb754953a.pdf](https://www.fhs-afs.net/pdf/pub/4.Special_Edition_MFJ3eb754953a.pdf)



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The second issue was published in 2024 as volume 24 and made available online on June 30, 2024. Alongside this special edition of DAA11, a total of 14 scientific papers from DAA11 have been published and can be accessed at <https://www.fhs-afs.net>. The third issue is currently being prepared in advance of DAA12.



[https://www.fhs-afs.net/pdf/5.Special%20edition\\_Malaysian%20Fisheries%20Journal%20MFJ%20Vol-24%202024.pdf](https://www.fhs-afs.net/pdf/5.Special%20edition_Malaysian%20Fisheries%20Journal%20MFJ%20Vol-24%202024.pdf)

## FHS-AFS Executive Committee (2022-2025)

**FHS Advisors:** Rohana Subasinghe, Melba B. Reantaso, Supranee Chinabut

**Chairperson:** Kua Beng Chu (Malaysia)

**Vice-Chairperson:** Pravata Kumar Pradhan (India)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Eduardo Leaño (Philippines/Thailand)

**Members:** Agus Sunarto (Indonesia/Australia; Past Chair), Motohiko Sano (Japan), Neeraj Sood (India), Han-Ching Wang (Taiwan), Qingli Zhang (P.R. China), Siow-Foong Chang (Singapore), Varinee Panyawachira (Thailand), Dang Thi Lua. (Vietnam)

**Observers:** Jiraporn Jarungsriapisit (Thailand), Desrina (Indonesia), Stephen Pyecroft (Australia), Syed Shabib Hasan (India), Naveen Kumar B.T. (India)

**FHS Electronic Newsletter Editors:** Neeraj Sood, Imelda Rantty, Naveen Kumar B.T.

The editorial team expresses its sincere thanks to all the members who have contributed to the eNewsletter. The next issue of eNewsletter is being planned in January 2026. All the members are requested to share important news or other information that would be useful for the members of FHS.

**eNewsletter Editorial Team**