



33rd NACA Governing Council held in New Delhi, India



Participants in the 33rd NACA Governing Council, ICAR Convention Centre, New Delhi, India.

The 33rd Governing Council was held from 5-8 March at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Convention Centre, New Delhi, India. A record 18 member governments attended, along with four Regional Lead Centres (RLCs) for China, India, the Philippines and Thailand, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, the International Development Research Centre, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and FUTURE FISH. India was elected as Chair and China as Vice-Chair of the meeting.

Several speakers addressed the audience in the opening ceremony. Dr J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries) ICAR and Chair of the Organising Committee, and Dr Huang Jie, Director General of NACA, welcomed delegates. Dr Pitchaya Chainark, outgoing Chair of the NACA Governing Council, and Expert in Coastal Aquaculture Research and Development, Thailand, gave the

opening remarks. Special Guest Dr Abhilaksh Likhri, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, and Chief Guest Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General of ICAR, Government of India, also addressed the meeting. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr Promod Kumar Sahoo, Director, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture and Regional Lead Centre, India.

The discussions at the 33rd NACA Governing Council Meeting underscore the shared commitment of member countries to promote sustainable aquaculture development in the Asia-Pacific region. Collaboration, innovation, and investment in research and technology are essential to address challenges such as disease outbreaks, climate change impacts, and environmental sustainability. By working together through platforms like NACA, member countries can achieve their

aquaculture development goals and ensure a resilient and sustainable future for the region.

Key issues of common concern included:

- Aquatic animal health and anti-microbial resistance (AMR): Members discussed biosecurity issues, including the need for guidance in the responsible use of veterinary medicines, and use of alternative strategies such as prevention and vaccination, as well as surveillance and monitoring, to minimise the risk of AMR developing.
- Climate change: The long-term impacts of climate change on aquaculture were an ongoing concern. Members were engaged in activities to reduce emissions in the sector, including through the use of innovative feed formulations, in addition to research on adaptation strategies and climate information and early warning systems to minimise losses.

- Capacity building and technology transfer: Members agreed to support requests for training and technical exchange in order to facilitate capacity building and technology transfer.

Other issues discussed included:

- The report of the 2nd High-Level Meeting on Aquaculture Transformation in Asia and the Pacific region, and associated White Paper, which identifies 20 action areas.
- NACA's One Community concept, which provides an inclusive and integrated framework for addressing social issues including, but not limited to, gender, youth, marginalised and vulnerable groups, and ageing communities.
- Establishment of operational rules for subject-oriented collaborative networks within the NACA mechanism, such as the International Artemia Aquaculture Consortium.

The Chair thanked the outgoing Director General, Dr Huang Jie, who was completing his five-year term, for his leadership of NACA over the past five years and expressed appreciation for the work he has undertaken in an environment where expectations were ever increasing.

Members also welcome the newly elected Director General, Dr Eduardo Leaña, who would commence his term on 1 May (see article below).

Members expressed thanks to the Government of India, ICAR and the NACA Secretariat for their kind hospitality and excellent arrangements in facilitating organisation of the meeting. The Chair thanked members for the opportunity for India to host the meeting. The Vice Chair, China, extended a warm welcome for members to attend the next Governing Council, to be held in Shanghai in 2025.

Dr Eduardo Leaña elected as next Director General of NACA



From left: Dr Huang Jie (DG NACA), Dr J.K. Jena (GC Chair and DDG ICAR Fisheries, India), Dr Eduardo Leaña (DG Elect, NACA) and Dr Xiangzhou Liu (GC Vice Chair, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China)

The 33rd NACA Governing Council, currently in session in New Delhi, India, today elected Dr Eduardo Leaña as the incoming Director General of NACA. He will serve a five-year term beginning in May 2024 and succeeds Dr Huang Jie, who will complete his own five year term in April.

Dr Leaña is a national of The Philippines and currently serves as the Senior Programme Officer for NACA's Health and Biosecurity Programme, and Food Security, Safety and Certification Programme. He holds a PhD in Applied Biology from the City University of Hong Kong, a MSc in Fisheries from the University of the Philippines Visayas and a BSc in Inland Fisheries from Central Luzon State University.

Dr Leaña has previously worked as a Research Scientist in the Aquaculture Department of SEAFDEC, as a Research Fellow at the Taiwan Fisheries Research Institute, and as a Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor at the National Taiwan Ocean University.

Dr Leaña has co-edited and published seven books in aquaculture and aquatic animal health and published more than 50 scientific articles in international and national journals, proceedings and as book chapters.

Reported Aquatic Animal Diseases in the Asia-Pacific Region during the Third Quarter of 2023

Listed below are the reported aquatic animal diseases submitted by countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which covers the third quarter of 2023. The original and updated reports can be accessed from the QAAD page at: <https://enaca.org/?id=8>

Finfish Diseases

- Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (EUS): Bangladesh in catla (*Catla catla*), mrigal (*Cirrhinus mrigala*) and rohu (*Labeo rohita*); and India in snakehead (*Channa marulius*).
- Infection with red seabream iridovirus (RSIV): Chinese Taipei in hybrid grouper (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* x *E. lanceolatus*), seabass (*Lates calcarifer*) and silver seabream (*Rhabdosargus sarba*); Hong Kong (reported as ISKNV) in hybrid grouper; and India (reported as ISKNV) in seabass.
- Infection with tilapia lake virus (TILV): India in tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), and Philippines in adult tilapia (*Oreochromis* sp.).
- Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER): Australia in barramundi (*L. calcarifer*); and Chinese Taipei in hybrid grouper, giant grouper (*E. lanceolatus*) and Malabar grouper (*E. malabaricus*).
- Carp edema virus disease (CEV): India in koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).
- Enteric septicaemia of catfish (ESC): Vietnam in catfish (*Pangasius macronema* and *P. hypophthalmus*).

Molluscan Diseases

- Infection with abalone herpesvirus: Australia in blacklip abalone (*Haliotis rubra*)
- Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*: India in farmed mussel (*Perna viridis* and *Mytella strigata*).

Crustacean Diseases

- Infection with white spot syndrome virus (WSSV): Chinese Taipei in whiteleg shrimp (*P. vannamei*); India in black tiger shrimp (*P. monodon*) and *P. vannamei*; the Philippines in *P. vannamei* (PL, grow-out culture, and adult), *P. monodon* (PL and grow-out culture, broodstock), and mudcrab (*Scylla serrata*; broodstock); and Vietnam in *P. vannamei*.
- Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV): Australia in wild *P. monodon*; and, the Philippines in *P. vannamei* (grow out culture) and *P. monodon* (PL).
- Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND): The Philippines in *P. vannamei* (PL and grow-out culture) and *P. monodon* (grow-out culture) and *S. serrata*; and Vietnam in *P. vannamei*.
- Infection with Infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV): India in *P. vannamei*.
- Hepatopancreatic microsporidiosis caused by *Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei* (EHP): Chinese Taipei in *P. vannamei*; India in *P. vannamei*; and the Philippines in *P. vannamei* (PL and grow out culture) and *P. indicus* (grow-out culture).

Amphibian Diseases

- Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*: Australia in 90x Southern bell frog (*Litoria raniformis*), 10 x striped marsh frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*), and 10x spotted marsh frog (*L. tasmaniensis*).

Other Diseases

- Bangladesh reported Infection with *Streptococcus agalactiae* in tilapia (*O. niloticus*), and Infection with *Aeromonas* spp. in shing catfish (*Heteropneustes fossilis*) and gulsha (*Mystus cavasius*). India reported Infection with tilapia parvovirus in *O. niloticus*.

E.M. Leño
Senior Programme Officer
Health and Biosecurity

We are hiring: Professional Associate, aquaculture transformation

- Position type: Full-time contract up to 18 months
- Salary: \$2,500 per month plus benefits
- Duty station: Bangkok
- Application deadline: **15 April**
- Prepare and submit project reports, documentation, and communications as required.
- Coordinate and facilitate workshops, trainings, and meetings related to the project.
- Monitor and evaluate project progress and outcomes, identifying and addressing any challenges or issues that may arise.

About us

The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) is an intergovernmental organisation that promotes rural development through sustainable aquaculture and aquatic resources management.

NACA seeks to improve the livelihoods of rural people, reduce poverty, and increase food security. The ultimate beneficiaries of NACA are farmers and rural communities.

Job description

We are seeking a highly qualified and motivated individual to join our team as a Professional Associate.

The successful candidate will oversee the implementation of a project focused on aquaculture transformation through innovative aquaculture and nature-based solutions, and the development of national innovation and investment plans for sustainable aquaculture.

This is a full-time contract position for immediate appointment, with a duration of up to 18 months, involving both local and international travel.

Responsibilities

- Lead and manage the implementation of the aquaculture transformation project under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, ensuring adherence to project timelines, budget, and deliverables.
- Collaborate with stakeholders, partners, and project team members to achieve project goals and objectives.
- Provide technical expertise in aquaculture and nature-based solutions to support project activities.

- Represent the organisation at relevant conferences, events, and meetings as needed.

Requirements

- MSc in an aquaculture-related discipline (PhD preferred).
- Proven experience in project management and implementation, preferably in the field of aquaculture, natural resource management or rural development.
- Excellent written and spoken English language skills, with proficiency in report writing.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to work effectively with diverse stakeholders and team members.
- Willingness to undertake both local and international travel as required.
- Preference will be given to citizens from NACA member states (Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Korea (DPR), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam).

How to apply

Interested candidates should submit i) a cover letter and ii) resume/CV to info@enaca.org. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please indicate "Professional Associate - Aquaculture Transformation" in the subject line.



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NACA is a network composed of 20 member governments in the Asia-Pacific Region.



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Those candidates selected for interview will be notified by 20 April.

NACA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals.