



NACA Newsletter

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Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010

The conference was a runaway success and the clear highlight of NACA's activities for 2010. More than 500 people joined an all-star cast of presenters in Phuket, 22-25 September, to discuss the current status of the sector, emerging issues and strategies for its sustainable development in the decade ahead.

The conference was opened by Dr Somying Piumsombun, Director General of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, with welcoming remarks by Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO; Mr Thammarat Wanglee, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; and Professor Sena De Silva, Director General of NACA.

Keynote addresses were given by Professor M.S. Swaminathan, speaking on "Aquaculture and sustainable nutrition security in a warming planet", and by Mr Jiansan Jia, FAO, speaking on "Global Aquaculture development since 2000: progress made in implementing the Bangkok Declaration and Strategy for Aquaculture Development beyond 2000".

The conference began with the presentation of a series of regional reviews, summarising the current state of aquaculture development in different areas of the world, followed by thematic reviews and plenary lectures over the four-day programme. Each review was followed by an expert panel discussion,



where the participants were given the opportunity to react to the presentation and discuss it with panel members, and to make recommendations.

Phuket Consensus

A key output of the conference was the Phuket Consensus, a declaration on aquaculture development for the coming decade. A draft declaration was circulated amongst the conference materials for consideration and comment was collected over the four days.

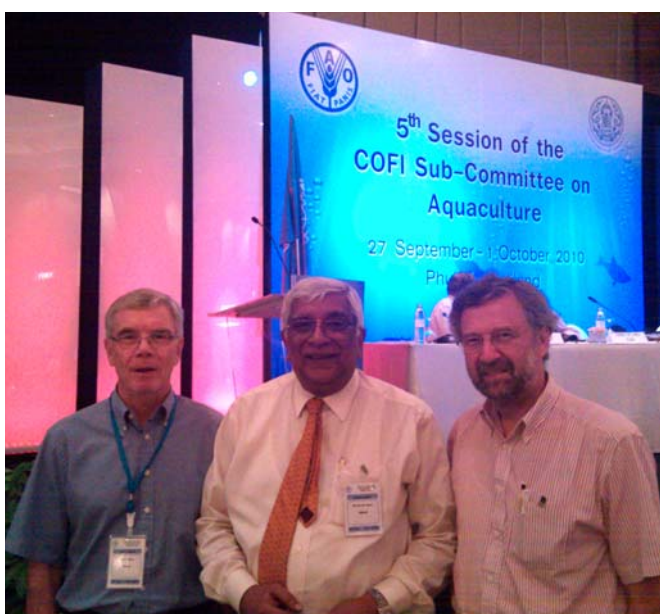
Recommendations made during thematic sessions were also collected and appended to the document. In the final plenary session, the conference reviewed the full declaration on screen and discussed it further. The Secretariat published the draft document on the web for a two-week period of additional comments before finalising it for publication.

The Phuket Consensus builds on and extends the Bangkok Declaration and Strategy, which was adopted by the previous Global Conference on Aquaculture in 2000. While reaffirming commitment to the principles laid out in the Bangkok Declaration, the Phuket Consensus recommends additional actions to address contemporary priorities and emerging issues.

Of the recommendations, several that are perhaps worth highlighting were to intensify assistance to small-scale farmers, to give special emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa and the least aquaculturally developed countries, to help accelerate their social and economic development, and to intensify international and regional mechanisms for technical cooperation. The Phuket Consensus is available from the link below (see next section).

Audio recordings are available

All presentations at the conference were recorded, and we are pleased to announce that these are available for free download as MP3 files from the NACA website at the link



Three veterans of aquaculture and also of the first Global Aquaculture Conference, held in Kyoto in 1976. From left to right, Brian Davy, Sena De Silva and Patrick Sorgeloos.



Professor M.S. Swaminathan, keynote speaker at the conference, being presented with a gift from NACA's Director General.

below - there is an entire week of listening available! The unedited slides from each presentation are also available for download, along with the conference programme, 'who's who' guide and all other conference publications. We hope that this will increase accessibility of the materials to those who could not attend, and also provide some useful teaching materials:

<http://www.enaca.org/modules/aqua2010/>

Publications

The edited manuscripts for each of the reviews presented at the conference will be published in both hard copy and electronic form. The publications arising from the conference will include:

- A volume containing the regional and global aquaculture reviews.
- A volume containing the keynote addresses, plenary speakers, presentations and invited lectures
- The Phuket Consensus and the recommendations of the conference.

Participants will receive a free copy of the printed proceedings when available and the electronic versions will be publicly available for free.

NACA would like to thank our partners, the Thai Department of Fisheries and FAO for their excellent collaboration in hosting and organising the event, as well as the panel members, presenters and all participants who together contributed towards a very enjoyable and educational programme.

NACA would also like to thank our sponsors for their support: The Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau, GTZ, Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health, Wiley-Blackwell and Gaware Wall Ropes.

Reducing the dependence on trash fish as feed for marine finfish

On-farm trials to determine the efficiency of trash fish vs pellet feeds in marine finfish culture have been completed under the project Reducing dependence on the utilisation of trash fish as feed for aquaculture of marine finfish in the Asian region. The trials were conducted in cage-based farms in China (Zhanjiang), Indonesia (Lampung), Thailand (Krabi, Phang Nga and Phuket) and Vietnam (Nha Trang).

The data from each country was analysed in respect of growth, production and economic benefit for the two feed types. The details of these analyses will be made available on this site and in respect of some of the countries published in peer reviewed journals.

The species used in the trials were:

- China: Crimson snapper/Red snapper (*Lutjanus erythropterus*) and Green/orange-spotted grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*)
- Indonesia: tiger grouper (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*).
- Thailand: Asian seabass (*Lates calcarifer*) and tiger grouper.
- Vietnam: Pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) and red snapper.

The result of the trials indicate that the differences in the efficacies of the two feed types were not markedly different, for all the species tested, even after accounting for differences in the locations for any one species.

The trials also showed that all species can be weaned from one feed type to the other without any significant impacts on feed intake and or overall performance. In all the participating countries there was consensus that use of pellet feed offer many advantages and that the farmers were willing to make a shift from trash fish/ low value fish to pellet feed. Equally, one of the constraints in this regard was the lack of feeds specific for grouper species, difficulty in accessing pellet feeds and the cost.

Most stakeholders were of the view that small scale farmers in a locality should form associations and make purchases collectively, thereby increasing bargaining power and even perhaps access to credit from the suppliers. The stakeholder consultation held in Krabi, Thailand requested the development of dissemination material indicating the advantages of using pellet feed in marine cage culture, which was followed by other participating countries.

The trial results were presented at stakeholder meetings in each of the countries, in June-July 2010, when feedback will be used to develop appropriate strategies, including dissemination mechanisms of the major findings. For more information please visit the project web page at:

http://www.enaca.org/modules/marinefishprojects/index.php?content_id=2

21st NACA Governing Council & 10th Technical Advisory Committee

Two of NACA's key events were held in conjunction with the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010. The 10th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on 21 September to propose new directions and priorities for the work plan, which were reviewed by the 21st Governing Council meeting.

TAC 10 was chaired by Dr Ambekar Eknath, Director of the Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture, India. The meeting was requested to focus on ways to improve the involvement of governments in project development

and implementation, in-country ownership of projects and activities, and ways to sustain project outcomes. As most NACA projects are donor funded, the distribution of projects amongst members tends to be somewhat weighted towards prevailing areas of donor activity and interests, and sustaining the outcomes beyond the life of the project is always a challenge.



Participants in the 21st NACA Governing Council Meeting.

Key TAC recommendations to address these issues include:

- Establishing working groups for each of NACA's six thematic work programmes, drawing on experts from member governments and Regional Lead Centres. The working groups would be tasked with developing project concepts in partnership with the Secretariat, but would also take a lead role in project implementation.
- Convening a ministerial level meeting of member governments, chaired by NACA and FAO, to elevate the profile of aquaculture in the region and the benefits of the networking mechanism that NACA provides to its members.
- Establishment of a special fund within NACA to support activities and countries for which donor funding is difficult to attract.
- Commissioning a review of NACA's impact over the past 20 years including government involvement, success stories, strengths and weaknesses, and a vision and recommendations to position the organisation for the next 20 years.

The 21st NACA Governing Council was chaired by Dr Nanthiya Unprasert, Deputy Director General of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. The opening ceremony was marked by the presentation of a Silver Medal Award to Mr Miao Weimin by the Government of China, for his outstanding contribution to foreign aid in developing countries. The award was made at a recent conference on the 60th anniversary of Chinese foreign aid, where a number of outstanding personnel were recognised including Mr Weimin. The award was presented by Mr Tang Shengyao and Mr Xu Pao on behalf of the Chinese Government Ministry of Agriculture and RLC China respectively. The Director General congratulated Mr Weimin and thanked him for his more than 20 years of support of NACA.

Member governments endorsed the recommendations of the 10th Technical Advisory Committee including the establishment of working groups, the special fund and the concept of a ministerial-level meeting, the logistics of which is currently being explored. Members identified ornamental fish culture as an emerging area of interest in the region, and more broadly inland aquaculture, culture based fisheries, health and biosecurity were areas of strong common interest. The 22nd Governing Council will be hosted by the Government of India in Kerala.

Training course on application of business management principles in small-scale aquaculture

NACA in conjunction with Nha Trang University and the Fisheries Training Program of the United Nations University successfully conducts the first training course on "Application of Business Management Principles in Small Scale Aquaculture".

Thirteen people attended the course, coming from Cambodia (1), India (1), Indonesia (2), Myanmar (1), Thailand (1) and Vietnam (7). The participants were a mix of farmer leaders, government officers, researchers and university teachers. They either had direct experience in small scale aquaculture or closely worked with small scale farmers, and their experience reflected the current aquaculture practices and systems prevailing in the region as well. Such a dynamic group also enabled the training course to examine aquaculture development issues from different perspectives and provided an excellent environment where participants were able to interact with others with diverse opinions and views.

Trainers were professionals from Hólar University, NACA and Nha Trang University. They were familiar with development context and issues of small scale aquaculture in the region and experienced in teaching and training. The training team collectively possessed strong academic backgrounds and expertise in economics, business management, rural development and aquaculture technology.

Course contents and delivery

The course consisted of ten stand-alone but complementary modules prepared considering aquaculture practices in Asia and current global development trends. A pre-training need assessment was carried out to determine knowledge



gaps. The course examined important physical, biological and socio-economic factors which affect farm economic performance. The concept of better management practices, food safety, global trade, scale of production and role of farmers' organisations were emphasised. Economic principles were presented and discussed in close association with Asian small scale aquaculture practice. Participants were requested before the course started to collect farming operation data of either their own farms or systems they were most familiar with. This data represented a range of farming systems and formed the base information and cases for participants to apply analytical skills to real world situations. Participants were encouraged to examine the data critically and suggest improvements and plan for future operation.

The training took a learner-centred, four-phase experiential learning approach, which requires participants' active participation in various training activities including:

- Experiencing through lecture, reading, recalling and sharing participants' specific experiences, case studies and field trips.
- Processing through group discussion, sharing experiences, analysing cases/ data, and reporting.
- Generalising through summarisation, group discussions on some conclusive statements, and reflecting what participants have learned to their working experiences.
- Applying through individual planning on how the knowledge and skill gained here will be used in participants' work situation and serve the need of small scale farmers in their areas.

Results and evaluation

In the final evaluation of the course, participants ranked all the sessions to be very relevant, useful, and important. Their opinions showed that such a training course was important in capacity building of small scale farmers in applying business management skills in their aquaculture practice. This would help them to adapt to dynamic global economic environment and remain competitive.

All participants successfully completed the training programme with upgraded knowledge and skills in economics, farm planning and management. All of them demonstrated their confidence in improving farming efficiency through applying economic principles and analytical and management tools in their case studies. They expressed their determinations to extend what they have learned in the training course to other farmers. It is expected that extension of the knowledge from this and future training courses to farmers will have a assist in sustainable development of small scale aquaculture in Asia.

In delivering the sessions, trainers tried to simplify the complex economic concepts and presented them in a direct and applicable way. Participant experiences were incorporated in almost every session so that they could

understand the concepts and apply skills through examining their own farming practices. This methods proved to be very effective in stimulate their learning interests and self motivation, and hence ensured a high level of efficiency of knowledge and skills transfer.

Look to the future

Uplifting business management skills for small scale aquaculture farmers in Asian requires a long term effort and is in great need. Along with technological advances, application of business management principles in small scale aquaculture is becoming critically important to retain its sustainability. Considerable attention and inputs are expected from academic institutions, governmental organisations, NGOs and other development agencies to ensure that capacity building of small scale farmers in this aspect is not neglected and the endeavour sustained and successful.

The training team of the course is currently still working on the training materials and course contents, looking for further improvement based on participants' evaluation and trainers' feedback.

NACA will make all endeavours to conduct this course in 2011, and perhaps as regular yearly event thereafter, with suitable modifications to the course material to 'pitch' the course more and more to the aquaface- the rural small scale farmer, in a manner comprehensible, applicable and adaptable to him/her.

Sri Lanka Journal of Aquatic Sciences goes open access

The Sri Lanka Journal of Aquatic Sciences is now offering free access to its full-text articles via download. The journal may be accessed online from the SLJOL website at the link below. Readers can register on the site to receive email notifications each time a new issue is published:

<http://www.sljol.info/index.php/SLJAS>



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NACA is a network composed of
18 member governments in the
Asia-Pacific region.



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Now we're on Facebook too

NACA has recently established a Facebook page, our major news and publications are now published there in addition to the website:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bangkok-Thailand/Network-of-Aquaculture-Centres-in-Asia-Pacific/135401153147891>

Don't forget you can find NACA on Twitter as well, under the name AquacultureAsia:

<http://www.twitter.com/AquacultureAsia>

And we have an email newsletter you can use to stay in touch, sign up at:

<http://www.enaca.org/modules/newsletter/>