

2012 SEAFDEC/AQD Highlights



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development for sustainable aquaculture) mechanism showcases our partnership with BFAR by providing technical assistance in their program on ensuring availability of seedstock for mariculture through the establishment and operation of multi-species marine fish hatcheries in strategic locations all over the country, among others.

Farmer-friendly information dissemination remains high in AQD's priorities. Technical manuals on grow-out culture of mangrove red snapper in ponds and nursery of high-value fishes in ponds were published and are now available to interested stakeholders. Manuals on mud crab hatchery and nursery operations, mud crab culture, and cage culture of milkfish have been prepared and submitted to agencies that will fund their publication. Updates on our R&D initiatives are regularly posted in AQD's website, in Facebook and other social networking sites. Our library has expanded its network of partners and information dissemination services to include more digital resources and online services.

As in previous years, we continue to build awareness, nurture and teach the youth about aquaculture, fisheries, biodiversity conservation and science in general, by hosting student on the job trainees and interns from various schools all over the country. Our internship program has been attracting students from other countries as well; we hosted students from the University of Ghent and the University of Melbourne. Our scientists make time to mentor students doing their research. We take pride in training the future aquaculturists, and fisheries and aquaculture practitioners, and perhaps even scientists in the country and in the region.

The lack of budget has always been AQD's problem. This constrained us from modernizing and undertaking some important activities under the different programs that required modern facilities and equipment. Securing external grants from funding agencies and through collaboration with both national and foreign institutions like the DA through BFAR and DA-Biotech PIU, DOST-PCAARRD, ACIAR, FAO, JIRCAS, FRA and RIHN of Japan, USAID, USB, among others, are among the strategies that we are taking to augment our R&D funds. We are currently implementing various projects under the national S&T programs on shrimp, milkfish and mud crab of DOST-PCAARRD in collaboration with the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), University of the Philippines Institute of Biology (UP-IB) and other partners in the academe.

All these achievements in the past year were made possible by the hard work, dedication and cooperation of all AQD staff. We will continue to work harmoniously in the coming years in order to surpass our past achievements and to face the challenge for AQD to maintain its leadership in aquaculture not only in SEAFDEC member countries but throughout Southeast Asia.



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FRONT COVER: Giant clams stocked by AQD in a San Joaquin (Iloilo) marine protected area which is being managed by a people's organization [PHOTO BY JP Altamirano]

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2012 SEAFDEC/AQD Highlights
ISSN 1655-5228

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Acknowledgments: Technical review of this report by the Publications Review Committee [RM Coloso, chair; EG Ayson, MRR Eguia, LMB Garcia, ML Aralar, RV Pakingking Jr and ND Salayo, members]. Report drafted by program leaders / office heads / B Acosta / MT Castaños