



Aquaculture Asia

is an autonomous publication that gives people in developing countries a voice. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not represent the policies or position of NACA

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An intergovernmental organization that promotes rural development through sustainable aquaculture. NACA seeks to improve rural income, increase food production and foreign exchange earnings and to diversify farm production. The ultimate beneficiaries of NACA activities are farmers and rural communities.

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Printed by Scand-Media Co., Ltd.

AQUACULTURE ASIA

Volume IX No. 2
April-June 2004

ISSN 0859-600X

From the Editor's desk

Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Magazine

As of this issue the marine finfish section has been revised and expanded into a small magazine in its own right, the *Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Magazine*, produced quarterly. The hard-copy version will be printed as part of Aquaculture Asia, and a stand-alone electronic version is available for download from the NACA website. This is a natural progression of the highly successful MFAN electronic newsletter, coordinated by NACA in cooperation with ACIAR, APEC, the Queensland DPI&F, and SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department. It builds on and supplements the regular Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network e-news service, which is now also circulated with greater frequency (fortnightly).

Contributions to the magazine are most welcome. If you are involved in marine finfish aquaculture and have some research findings or perhaps some hot hands-on farming tips then please write them down!

Regular visitors to the website may have noticed the 'Marine finfish photos' link in the Databases & services section, which leads to an online collection of high-quality photographs. We are always on the lookout for more, particularly for clear "specimen" shots of different species that can be used for identification purposes, and culture systems. Please help us put a good collection together - if you have any photographs you would like to share with the network please send them in. All contributions to the Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network should be sent to sim@enaca.org.

With regards to Aquaculture Asia Magazine itself, we have recently added a 'Magazine' section to the website as a further alternative means of access (this magazine is now circulated in print, on CD, and online in html and PDF formats). The Magazine section contains all of the feature articles in html format, so you can simply click and view them in your browser. Down at the bottom of each story you will also find two useful buttons: 'Printer friendly page', so you can generate your own hard copy if you wish, and 'Email to friend', which speaks for itself. The website is updated in real time with new articles added as soon as they are edited, so check it out from time to time for the latest stories.

Lastly, we are expanding both our magazine and website coverage to include ornamental fish and genetics. In order to kick off these new sections we need high-quality articles and regular contributions of news stories, market prices and industry gossip !

If you would like to contribute to either of these sections please contact me at simon.wilkinson@enaca.org. We that request prospective authors please refer to our Guidelines for Contributors before making a submission. You can email me to request a copy, or download them directly from the website at:

<http://www.enaca.org/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid=83>

Simon Wilkinson

I.R. Iran and NACA

We would like to announce the membership of and warmly welcome the Islamic Republic of Iran to the NACA Organization. The Governing Council unanimously accepted I.R. Iran's application – made through the Office of the FAO Director General in accordance with the provisions of the NACA Agreement - during its 15th Meeting, held in Colombo and Kandy, Sri Lanka in on 21-25 April 2004. Iran first had official contacts with NACA in 1992: Attendance in the First Technical Advisory Committee Meeting in Hat Yai, Thailand and the 4th Governing Council Meeting held in Hong Kong. The delegation was led by then Vice Minister for Jihad-e-Sezandegui, the Hon. Lahijanian, who told the Council of the desire of Iran to join NACA as a member. An immediate offshoot of this was the visit, on the invitation and hosting of Iran, of a NACA Team consisting of then NACA Coordinator Dr Banchong Tiensongruee, India's Governing Council Member Dr P.V. Dehadrai, and the NACA Information Specialist to identify areas for cooperation. Following these initial official contacts, Iran requested NACA to organize several training and study tour programmes for their professional and technical personnel in a number of areas including shrimp hatchery and pond culture management (in Thailand and the Philippines) and Indian major carp breeding and culture (in India), as well as continuing participation in the integrated farming course in Wuxi, China. (I was at the opening ceremony with other NACA and FAO and IDRC representatives, and represented the NACA Coordinator as the closing speaker for the 1988 IFF course in which 18 Iranians were among 39 graduates). A number of the participants have gone on to pursue graduate studies, and many have subsequently taken up managerial posts in various field offices of

SHILAT (Iranian Fisheries Company). NACA also arranged visits of experts on shrimp and freshwater prawn to Iran. There have also been instances when NACA identified for the private aquaculture sector of Iran suitable consultants for their projects. It had taken time to complete the accession but the Government, following the initial contacts, continued to actively and responsibly take part in a number of regional projects under NACA as well as participate in all but one Governing Council Meeting since 1992 and all seven the Technical Advisory Committee Meetings so far.

Indonesia confirms

At the same meeting, the Government of Indonesia through its Foreign Ministry, confirmed the Government's decision to accede to the NACA Agreement. The announcement was made at the Governing Council Meeting by an official of the Embassy of the S.R. of Sri Lanka in Jakarta. Since the NACA project years from 1980 to 1989, Indonesia had been an active participant in all the core activities and projects. It hosted the 7th Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, held in Bali in July 2003. A regular course on grouper culture, as a component of the Asia-Pacific Marine Fish R and D Program - has been instituted at the Gondol Research Institute for Mariculture in Bali. During the period when NACA was funded by UNDP and operated by FAO, Indonesia voluntarily contributed a yearly sum to NACA; after autonomy, it continued with this yearly contribution. Also taking part for the first time as observer at GC 15 was the Sultanate of Oman represented by its Fisheries Director General Dr. Younis Khalfan Al-Akhzami. Dr Younis mentioned possible areas of cooperation and said



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that Oman will study the possibility of their participating in NACA.

Way to go for Sri Lankan aquaculture

Preceding the 15th Governing Council Meeting was the Third AquaBusiness Seminar with the theme "Aquaculture for Rural Development: Way to Go for Sri Lanka". It was organized by NAQDA and the Fisheries Ministry with the cooperation of the private sector, and the assistance of NACA. More than 150 people participated including the Council Meeting delegates. The two-day seminar discussed technical, environmental and social issues related to aquaculture and aquatic resources management. The resource persons were from NAQDA, NARA, Fisheries Ministry, the universities, and were complemented by experts from the Governing Council, the NACA Secretariat, STREAM Initiative, the NACA Regional Lead Centres, and others who have been "sourced" out by NACA, particularly the expert on ornamental fish from Prague (Dr. Petr Pozel), who stayed on to provide advice to farmers and to NAQDA. A presentation on the principles and prospects for certification of harvested as well as bred marine ornamental animals was also contributed by Paul Holthuis of the Hawaii-based Marine Aquarium Council.