



Electronic Newsletter
Fish Health Section/Asian Fisheries Society
Issue No. 5 **June 2004**

Dr. Akhmad Rukyani: 1946-2004



Dr. Akhmad Rukyani
8 December 1946 to 10 June 2004

BSc Fisheries Engineering, Lambung Mangkurat University, South Kalimantan (1975)
MSc Fish Pathology, Auburn University, USA (1980)
PhD Fish Pathology, Auburn University, USA (1987)

Pak Rukyani, as we fondly call him, will be sorely missed by his Indonesian family and colleagues as much as the FHS community and the aquaculture industry. We will not forget his leadership, poise and grace (always with a ready smile). His invaluable contributions to the field of aquatic animal health, aquaculture and fisheries will forever be recognized by colleagues world-wide. He is survived by his wife, daughter and grandchildren. Condolence cards can be sent to Jl. Pekerti 14, Kedung Badak Baru, Bogor 16710, Indonesia.

Dr Akhmad Rukyani, a reknowned aquatic animal health scientist passed away last 10 June 2004 in his home in Bogor, Indonesia after a short battle with lung cancer. Dr. Rukyani began his career as a Research Assistant at SEAMEO-BIOTROP from 1975-1976 and for the next 28 years he dedicated his career to government service acting in various capacities (researcher, Chief of Planning Division, Chief of Fish Pathology Section, Head of RIFF-Sukamandi, Senior Researcher and Director) at what is now known as Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF).

A pioneering member of the Fish Health Section of the Asian Fisheries Society (FHS/AFS), Dr. Rukyani was a Council Member of the First (1989-1992) and Second (1992-1996) Executive Committee of the FHS/AFS. He chaired the Local Organising

Committee of the First Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA1) held in November 1990 in Bali, Indonesia. The Bali meeting set the standard for subsequent DAA symposia (a triennial event of the FHS/AFS), DAA VI is scheduled for 2005.

Dr. Rukyani served as first President of the Indonesian Network on Fish Health Management and was editor in chief or member of the editorial boards of the following local journals: (a) Agricultural Biotechnology Journal; (b) The Indonesian Journal of Parasitology; (c) Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (AARD Journal); (d) Agricultural Research and Development Journal; and (e) Inland Fisheries Research Bulletin.

From 1988 to 1999 he managed a number of foreign and locally funded projects such as (a) IDRC's Fish Parasite Project (1983–1990); (b) USAID's Fisheries Research and Development (1988–1990); (c) ACIAR's Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (1992–1995); (d) National Project - The use of immunostimulant isolated from cell wall bacterial to enhance black tiger shrimp immunity (1997 – 1999); and (e) Agricultural Research Management Project (ARMP II): Evaluation of catfish diseases (1998/1999). From 1995 to 1998 he was a member of Indonesia's Task Force on Shrimp Diseases. He also served as National Counterpart on Fish Disease on JICA-assisted fish disease projects. He was one of 12 senior scientists on aquatic animal health in the region selected to attend the very first Master Class Training Course on Epidemiology in Tropical Aquaculture organized by ACIAR and AAHRI in 1996. Dr Rukyani acted as National Coordinator for AAHRI's Southeast Asia Aquatic Animal Disease Control Project and NACA/FAO's Aquatic Animal Health Programme.

As Director of the Fish Health and Environment (Directorate General of Aquaculture, MMAF) since 2001, he immediately put things into order, actively participating in national and regional projects on aquaculture health management. Indonesia's National Strategy on Aquatic Animal Health was developed through a workshop held in June 2002. At about the same time, during the outbreak of a serious disease affecting koi and common carp in Indonesia, Dr. Rukyani was quick to recognize the potential for this mortality to become an epizootic and he immediately requested for assistance both at regional and international levels. Upon the request of the Indonesian government an Emergency Disease Control Task Force was formed by NACA with full support from ACIAR, AAHRI and FAO. The work of the Task Force generated increased regional and international attention to Koi herpes virus (KHV) and lead to a Technical Cooperation Project funded by FAO. He served as National Project Director of FAO's TCP/INS/2905 – Health Management in Freshwater Aquaculture.

2002-2004 was certainly a busy and very productive period for Dr Rukyani, having organized many local workshops, scientific meetings and consultancy missions under the FAO Project, hosting a number of scientists working on KHV and participating in a number of regional/international conferences. Most of our fish health colleagues met him in what now appeared to be the last time during DAA V in GoldCoast, Australia, the KHV meeting in Yokohama, Japan and the World Aquaculture Society Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii both events in March 2004.

“I served on his graduate committees and he participated in my classes. Dr. Rukyani was a wonderful young man who we all respected and liked very much. He was a hard working student and he was certainly above average academically. He contributed significantly to the fisheries industry in Indonesia and I know that the industry will miss his expertise as well as his personable disposition”.

Dr. John Plumb (Auburn University, USA, 17 June 2004)

“I remember Dr. Rukyani very well from my travels to Indonesia many years ago now. During my visits in that country, I always found Dr. Rukyani very friendly, helpful and hospitable. We did some travelling together and kept in touch for quite a long time.

May the Almighty God keep him in His eternal care”.

Dr Z. Kabata (retired scientist, DFO-Canada, 15 June 2004)

“It was indeed sad to hear of Dr. Rukyani's demise. I hope he did not suffer too much pain and we pray God to give strength to all his near and dear one's to bear this loss. We pray for his soul to rest in peace” –

Dr Indrani Karunasagar (India, 14 June 2004)

“Very sorry to hear the news and we pray to the Almighty to give the family strength to tide over the loss” Dr. Yugraj Yadava (India, 15 June 2004)

“I am sorry to hear the news. I will pray for Dr A Rukyani's family. Peace”

Dr. S.C.Chi (Taiwan, 14 June 2004)

“We join you all in condoling Dr. Rukyani's family at this most painful period. May his Soul Rest in Peace, Amen!” – Stella Williams (13 June 2004)

“We share the same feeling with you. Thank you for informing this to all colleagues. I paid my last respect to him on Saturday morning. I saw some close friends in his home in Bogor, such as Pak Purwito and Fachrian Pasaribu” – Dr. Benni Sormin (FAO Indonesia, 13 June 2004).

“I am very sorry to hear the news. We pray God to give strength to his family to bear the loss and for soul to rest in peace.” – Dr. Asoka (Sri Lanka)

“Sorry to hear the news, would you please send my best regards to Dr. Rukyani's family. Dr. Rukyani will be in our hearts forever.” - Yingqi Zhou (16 June 2004)

“Thank you very much for the death message of Dr. Rukyani. We are very unhappy for this painful message but we have nothing to do..every body will leave this beautiful world. We are praying for her eternal happiness of her departed soul. And her family members can bear this great loss.” Prof. Md. Ahsan Habib (14 June 2004)

“God bless him, ENSHA ALLAH” -S.S.Mirzargar (Turkey, 13 June 2004)

“...For me particularly, this is a very sad news as Dr. Rukyani and I were friends (and colleagues) for over 20 years. On our behalf, please convey our sincere condolences to his family and that we pray for strength and courage to the family to face the difficult circumstances”.

Dr. Rohana P. Subasinghe (Rome, 15 June 2004)

Memories of 1989-1992



1989, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Fish Health Section/Asian
Fisheries Society First Executive
Council Members: 1989-1992
1st Row (L-R): K Tonguthai, F.
Shaharom, G Lio-Po
2nd Row (L-R): R Subasinghe,
Pan Jin Pei, I Anderson, Leong
Tak Seng, A Rukyani and T
Kimura



1991, Indonesia
With Prof. Kishio Hatai



1992, Phuket, Thailand
Second Executive Committee
Members of the FHS/AFS
(1992-1996)
L-R: Leong Tak Seng, K
Tonguthai, T Kimura, CV
Mohan, T Flegel, CL Torres,
A Rukyani, Hassan Daud, R
Subasinghe and M Shariff

Fast Forward after 10 years 2002-2004



June 2002, Jakarta
With members of Fish Health Laboratory in Pasar Minggu, Jakarta and MB Reantaso



June 2002, Bogor, Indonesia
With local participants and MB Reantaso to Workshop on National Strategy Development



June 2002, Bogor
National Strategy Workshop



July 2002, Jakarta
Members of Emergency
Disease Control Task
Force on Mass Mortality
of Koi and Common Carp
in Indonesia



July 2002, Indonesia
With Koi and Common
carps farmers



December 2003, Yogyakarta, roundtable meeting with local fish health colleagues



December 2003, Yogyakarta, FAO Training Workshop on Fish Health Management for Fish Farmers with M Shariff and local participants



December 2003, dinner with M Shariff and local colleagues



December 2003, with Indonesian colleagues



December 2003



December 2003, L-R: Jumbuh Rukmono, Agus Sunarto, F Pasaribu, A Rukyani



February 2004, FAO Workshop on Disease Reporting and Information Systems, Jakarta, Indonesia with R Subasinghe and MB Reantaso, T Kimoto (FAO), F Sukadi (DG Aquaculture), D Dana



February 2004, L-R: R Subasinghe, T Kimoto, F Sukadi, A Rukyani



February 2004, Jakarta, Indonesia with MB Reantaso and F Sukadi

**Below, we have a small belated tribute to
Dr. Barry Munday of Australia and
Dr. Roselyn Duremdez-Villaruz of the Philippines.**

Dr. Barry Munday: 1933-2003



On 16 May 2003, Prof. Barry Munday passed away at age of 70. He is survived by his wife Fay and kids Phillip, Paul and Louise.

Dr. Barry L. Munday was a Veterinary Officer at the Mt. Pleasant Laboratory, Launceston, Tasmania (Fish Health and Animal Health Units of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Waters and Environment) before he transferred to the University of Tasmania as a Lecturer at the School of Aquaculture. During his stint at the University, he supervised graduate students (Honours, Masters and PhD students) who carried out varied aspects of aquatic animal health research, the more important of which include the diseases of salmonid species, the immunology of southern bluefin tuna and ulcerative mycosis of platypus (due to Mucor).

In 2000, he moved to the School of Human Life Sciences as a Research Fellow where he continued to lecture and supervise research students. The Barry L. Munday Memorial Lecture had its inaugural last 14 March 2003 at the School of Human Life Sciences, and will be held annually. This is to give honor and recognize a great scientist and his contributions in animal health research.

He has been very supportive of research projects undertaken in Asia (funded by ACIAR), either as a project reviewer or as an invited lecturer/specialist during project-related workshops. In 1999, he participated during the Fourth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA IV) held in Cebu, Philippines. Barry served as member of the Scientific Program Committee of the Fifth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAAV) held in Brisbane, Australia in November 2002.

Dr. Roselyn Duremdez-Villaruz: 1960-2003



Dr. Roselyn Duremdez-Villaruz, died with her husband in a fatal car accident in Kuwait on 31 July 2003. Roselyn was finally laid to rest in her native town in Naawan, Misamis Oriental, Philippines on September 27, 2003. Roselyn is survived by brother Benie.

Roselyn became Chief of SEAFDEC-AQD Fish Health Section upon her return to the Philippines after completing her PhD studies from Hokkaido University under the supervision of Prof. Kimura and Prof. Yoshimizu. She retired early from SEAFDEC-AQD and moved to Kuwait in 1999 to work as Associate Research Scientist. In September 2003, the Pathology Laboratory of KISR was named as Dr. Roselyn Duremdez Laboratory in honor of Roselyn's significant contribution to KISR.

I have few but warm memories of Roselyn – Fish Pathology meetings in Japan (1992-1995), a conference to the US where we were both recipients of SF Snieszko Travel Award for Students of the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society (1992 - at that time we were both graduate students in Japan); another conference in Bangkok (1996), few meetings in the Philippines and the rest via e-mail correspondence. A true Christian, she has a big heart and never fails to send inspiring messages.

This edition of the FHS Electronic Newsletter is specially dedicated to three friends and colleagues of the Fish Health community who left us in 2003-2004. Drs Akhmad Rukyani, Barry Munday and Roselyn Duremdez-Villaruz will be fondly remembered by the Asian aquatic animal health scientific community and their contributions in the field will always be recognized.

Thanks to Prof. M Shariff, Prof. K Hatai, Dr. Subasinghe and FHE staff for photographs; Dr. Benni Sormin and Verra Syam of FAO Indonesia and Agus Sunarto for other information about Pak Rukyani; to Bennie for Roselyn's photo and to everyone who sent words of condolences and offers of prayers.

Let us all spend a moment of silence in remembrance of our beloved colleagues.

This Electronic Newsletter, intended for FHS/AFS members and other subscribers, contains information on member news/updates, regional/global project news/updates, important events, useful publications and other aquatic animal health resources to and from the Asia-Pacific region. Regular issues will come out on a monthly, bimonthly or quarterly basis depending on available information; newsletter archive can be accessed at <http://afs-fhs.seafdec.org.ph>. For contributions, subscription/unsubscription, please send e-mail to melba@goeaston.net.