

Message from the Chairperson, Fish Health Section of the AFS

The Seventh Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VII) was held in Taipei City, Taiwan from June 22nd until June 26th 2008. The theme of the event was “Communication, Cooperation and Coordination: Key Issues in Aquatic Animal Health Management”.

The Symposium housed more than 400 delegates from 31 countries including: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, China, Egypt, France, French Polynesia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam to name a few. With this consortium of biologist, fishery scientist, breeders, veterinarians and the like, we were able to embrace the theme of “Communication and Cooperation” by exchanging ideas related to the business of aquaculture.

The Symposium topics:

- State of the world aquaculture
- Global perspectives in managing aquatic animal health
- Emerging issues in aquatic animal health management
- Epidemiology, detection and diagnosis of pathogens in fish, shellfish, mollusks and their environment
- Biosecurity and containment in aquaculture systems
- Recent developments in genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics: implications for aquatic animal diseases
- Immunology/Disease resistance/Host-pathogen interaction
- Microbiology of aquatic animal pathogens and antimicrobial peptides
- Disease of aquatic invertebrates -Shrimp health
- Disease of aquatic invertebrates -Mollusks health
- Disease of aquatic vertebrates -Finfish health
- Pathogen risk analysis, probiotics, therapeutics and other fields
- The way forward
 - o Aquatic animal health management
 - o International trade, aquatic animals and risk were fully developed within the context of 16 keynote speeches, 11 lectures, 56 oral presentations and some 204 posters.

The highlight of the Symposium was the publication of *Diseases in Asian Aquaculture VII*. Via the publication of this work, we hope that its contents will provide direction, insight and new knowledge to advance the quest for better aquatic health management in Asian aquaculture.

On whole the interdisciplinary discussions, shared research, contributions of our sponsors and efforts put forth by the organizers, combined with the closing keynote speeches by Dr. Barry Hill and Dr. Timothy Flegel were invaluable to supporting the theme of “Communication, Cooperation and Coordination.”

Having highlighted the successes of the proceedings, I would like to thank the Asian Fisheries Society, The Fisheries Society of Taiwan, Academia Sinica, The Fish Health Section, the College of Life Sciences, NTU, Uni-President, PHARMAQ, the delegates, the speakers and each and every person that had a hand in making the Seventh Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA VII) a success. In addition, I extend my appreciation to the editorial board, Dr. Melba B. Reantaso (chief editor), Dr. Brian Jones, Dr. Flavio Corsin and Prof Takashi Aoki, for their contributions.

Prof. Chu Fang Lo
Chairperson
FHS-AFS Executive Committee (2008-20011)