

6th AFS Forum revisited

The 6th Asian Fisheries forum was attended by 562 participants from 33 countries and territories. The four keynote speeches (1) Asian fisheries in the 21st century : which way to prosperity (M.J. Williams); (2) Feeding the world through aquaculture: Asian contributions, present and future (C.S.Lee); (3) Recent advances in aquatic food technology and nutrition (A. Kanazawa); and (4) Asian fisheries in the context of food security and the environment (T.E. Chua) were among the excellent presentations. Both scientific and special sessions were very well attended.

Post-Forum Activities

While in Kaohsiung, participants had initial discussions on follow-up activities to be undertaken in the coming years. These besides others include Women in Fisheries (shifting to gender and fisheries for a targeted 2004 meeting). Related Society activities on the planning stages include the 5th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (scheduled for November 2002) and the 2nd International Symposium on Cage Aquaculture in Asia. Fisheries workshops addressing relevant fisheries issues will be organized between 2002 and the next forum year (2004). The Society has so far organized workshops covering various areas of concern, namely: (1) fish quarantine; (2) fisheries education and training; (3) resource

allocation in fisheries; (4) introduction of exotic species; (5) fish nutrition; (6) biotechnology applications in aquaculture; (7) cage aquaculture; and (8) biodiversity.

The Society welcomes institutions/expert groups interested to collaborate in similar or other activities in the future.

The Kaohsiung Declaration: Position Statement to the Johannesburg Summit 2002

Inspired by a strong and meaningful keynote address by Dr. Meryl Williams (ICLARM-The World Fish Center), entitled *Asian Fisheries in the 21st Century: Which way to prosperity?*, the General Assembly of the Society has adopted a resolution on the status of the aquatic resources and the urgent steps that need to be taken for the sustainable management of the resources. The ensuing document has been named The Kaohsiung Declaration and will be brought to the attention of the forthcoming Johannesburg Summit 2002 (World Summit on Sustainable Development) as an official statement of the members of the Society which now number over 2900.

The summit will be a gathering of thousands of participants from all over the world, including heads of states and governments, national delegates, representatives from research, training and educational institutions, nongovernmental

organizations, the industry and other concerned groups. A focal point of the summit will be action plans for sustainable development.

As Dr. Williams puts it, "The Asian Fisheries Society could play a major role in building the knowledge bridge on Asian fisheries if it chooses. Around the world, professional societies are taking up the challenge and seeking new, more public ways to get their messages across. The Society could speak out and give its well-informed scientific opinions on how fisheries prosperity can be achieved. This is often more difficult for national scientists or institutes to do as they could risk their careers or support if they have to draw to the attention of policy makers the state of national fisheries and the often politically unpopular actions that may be needed to improve the situation long term. The Society offers a more neutral span in the knowledge bridge."

The Society takes up the challenge and anticipates a more active role to play in addressing fisheries issues in both regional and global arenas.

Penang, Malaysia: venue for 7th Asian Fisheries Forum

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in collaboration with University Putra Malaysia, the Malaysian Department of Fisheries, Malaysian Fisheries Society and ICLARM – The World Fish Center will be hosting the 7th Asian Fisheries Forum in Penang,

Malaysia in 2004. Malaysia-based Vice-President, Secretary and Councillors of the Society Drs. Modadugu Gupta, Roshada Hashim and Fatemah Yusoff, respectively along with Prof. Mohd. Shariff, the past President of the Society are spearheading plans for organization of the Forum.

Edgardo D. Gomez: 2001 AFS Honorary Member

The Council at its 23rd Meeting in Kaohsiung endorsed the nomination of Dr. Edgardo Gomez as Honorary Member of the Society. His nomination was later approved by the General Assembly during its 7th session.

Dr. Gomez holds a Master's degree in biology from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota and a Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California-San Diego.

His post-doctoral work included: (1) study and assessment of the condition of the Philippines's coral reefs; (2) a three year program to establish demonstration sites for the enhancement of coral habitats through coral transplantation and giant clam restocking; and (3) investigation of the reproduction of important invertebrates, particularly *Tridacna gigas*.

Dr. Gomez is the founding

Director of the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines, the leading academic marine science department in the Philippines.

The Marine Science Institute under the guidance of Dr. Gomez has deployed several thousand juvenile clams in more than a dozen sites throughout the Philippines. Recently, through his Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation, this program has received a boost and expects to deploy tens of thousands of the *T. gigas* in various protected areas in order to establish breeding populations of a species that used to be widespread but which was overexploited to near extinction. This is likely to be the first threatened marine invertebrate of importance to be reestablished in Philippines, if not in the region.

Recently, Dr. Gomez initiated the Pacific Seaboard Research and Development Program as planner and coordinator (a three-year effort to open a window to the east coast of the country with the primary objective of making an initial assessment of the coastal resources and oceanography of the area.

Dr Gomez has participated in numerous international fora and is a member of many international scientific associations such as the International Society for Reef Studies including committee membership in prestigious

organizations such as the Executive Committee of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). He served as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Scientific Committee on Coral Reefs of the Pacific Science Association, and the Inter-agency U. N. Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP).

In the Philippines, Ed's contribution to science and public service has been recognized: (recipient of the Presidential *Lingkod Bayan* (Service to the Nation) Award in 2000 and) named Academician in the roster list of membership in the National Academy of Science and Technology.

His notable international awards include being named a laureate in UNEP's Global 500 Roll of Honour for his efforts in the protection of the ocean and more recently, being named as a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation.

Dr. Gomez has served for three terms in the AFS Council during 1984-1986, 1992-1995 and 1995-1998 when he also assumed the post of Treasurer. Dr Gomez' dedication to the Society remains strong as he continues to serve the Society as AFS Journal Associate Editor and as Adviser.