

Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP Sponsorship of the Ninth International Symposium on Tilapia in Aquaculture to Be Held in Shanghai, China

Technology Adoption and Policy Development/Activity/09TAP01UA

Kevin Fitzsimmons
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona, USA

Pablo González Alanís
Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas
Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, México

Liu Liping
Shanghai Ocean University
Shanghai, China

ABSTRACT

The ISTA 9 was successfully held in late April 2011 at Shanghai Ocean University. The symposium was held in conjunction with the 9th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF) conference and tradeshow. The Proceedings, co-published by the AquaFish CRSP and Shanghai Ocean University included 62 papers, and 7 posters in a single volume with 409 pages. The entire proceedings were also distributed as PDF files on a USB drive provided to all 1300 participants in the concurrent 9th Asian Fisheries Society Conference. We have since also loaded all of the papers and Power Point Presentations as PDF's on the conference website <http://ag.arizona.edu/azaqua/ista/ISTA9/ISTA9.htm>. As part of the project we provided travel support for several international scientists to travel to and participate in the symposium.

INTRODUCTION

The Ninth International Symposium on Tilapia in Aquaculture (ISTA9), co-sponsored by the AquaFish CRSP, was held in Shanghai, China, 21-24 April 2011. China has become the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of tilapia products. The host for the ISTA was Shanghai Ocean University. The scope of the ISTA symposia has closely matched the growth of tilapia farming into a global industry of the second most commonly farmed fish in the world. From the first ISTA with several dozen participants, the ISTA's in Brazil, the Philippines, Mexico, Egypt have each drawn between 600 and 900 attendees. The ISTA 9 was held in conjunction with the 9th AFAF and we had over 1300 attendees in total. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created in the farming, processing, and selling of over 3,000,000 MT of tilapia products per year. This enormous quantity of fish has been produced in many of the world's poorest developing nations, providing high quality seafood to their own people as well as the most highly developed markets. This fact was reflected in the diversity of attendees and presentations from attendees representing over 50 different countries.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide travel support for Dr. Gonzalez and four international contributors from other Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP countries to attend ISTA 9.

2. To publish and print the Proceedings of the 9th ISTA. To establish an ISTA website for on-line submission of abstracts and papers and eventual e-archiving of paper and presentations in PDF formats.

TRAVEL SUPPORT

Travel support to the conference was provided for Dr. Pablo Gonzalez and Vicente Camporredondo from Mexico, May Myat Noelwin, from Thailand, Robert Sayco, from the CLSU-Philippines, Soma Ariyaratne from Sri Lanka, Sidrotun Naim from Indonesia, Pamila Ramotar from Guyana and Loc Tran from Vietnam. By leveraging funds with co-sponsors and encouraging home country partial funding, we were pleased to be able to spread the support so that we were able to bring eight people rather than the five proposed. Two additional persons from Bangladesh were planning to attend, with AquaFish CRSP support, but were involved in serious traffic accident and were unable to travel. Some of their travel expenses could not be recovered.

PROCEEDINGS COMPLETED

The technical sessions included 62 presentations with each presentation having a paper also published in the proceedings. Papers on genetics, nutrition, fish health, processing and food safety, best management practices, marketing and value added products, certification programs, and regional reviews are included in the proceedings. Copies of the ISTA 9 proceedings will soon be available from the World Aquaculture Society on-line bookstore (www.was.org) or from the co-Chairmen, Dr. Liping Liu at Shanghai Ocean University or Kevin Fitzsimmons at the University of Arizona. All of the papers are in English. The proceedings were dedicated to Yang Yi in recognition of his many contributions, not least of which was his desire to host the ISTA9 in conjunction with the 9th Asian Fisheries Society conference at Shanghai Ocean University.

Other past and present CRSP participants making presentations included Remedios Bolivar and four others from CLSU-Philippines, Khalid Salie from Stellenbosch University, Pablo Gonzalez, Wilfrido Contreras and Rafael Martinez from Mexico, Hasanuddin from Indonesia, Dang Thi Oanh, Le Thanh Hung, and Nguyen Phoung from Vietnam and Madhav Shrestha from Nepal. Two University of Arizona students on CRSP support assisted with organizing the abstracts, send papers out for review, collate papers into sessions, and keep records on the internet website. Liping Liu took our PDF files (cover and contents) and found three printers to bid on the printing. The books were delivered to SOU a couple of days before the conference in excellent condition. The ISBN of the proceedings is 978-1-888807-19-6.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The AquaFish CRSP annual meeting was held immediately before the ISTA 9. This allowed many of the CRSP partners to accomplish the annual meeting and the ISTA 9 with only one travel cost. The annual meeting brought the entire AquaFish CRSP group together to review past year accomplishments and learn of future plans and goals for the CRSP and US-AID on a larger scale.

The ISTA 9 itself included simultaneous sessions for two and half days. We also had a section including 9 posters as part of the posters displayed with the Asian Fisheries Society. Lunch and coffee breaks provided opportunities for discussions between delegates to compare results and projects. Many people also took advantage of open periods to visit the downtown Shanghai, the Bund, and other historic and modern sites of the city.

Tilapia dinner. At each of the ISTA's we host a dinner serving locally grown tilapia in traditional recipes. At ISTA 9 we invited 120 people to the dinner (135 showed up, but we were able to

accommodate as the hotel had prepared extra food). Tilapia fillets were donated by the Hainan-Quebec Sustainable Company. Several tilapia dishes were served along with the other dishes in a buffet.



REVEREND JAN HEIJNE AWARD

The Tilapia International Foundation presented their award recognizing exceptional career service in support of poverty alleviation through tilapia aquaculture to Dr. LI Sifa from Shanghai Ocean University during the tilapia dinner we hosted at the Howard Johnson Hotel. Named for Reverend Heinje, who organized and supported several tilapia farming projects in developing countries with his congregation in the Netherlands, the award is presented at each of the ISTA events. Dr. LI was recognized for the many years of service to tilapia farming across China, from importing improved strains of fish, to training students, farmers, and government officials, to documenting the growth of the industry across China.



SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Shanghai Ocean University was the host for the symposium. The American Soybean Association provided travel support for one international speaker to attend ISTA9. The China Aquatic Products and Processing Association provided planning support and brought a 10 person delegation to the ISTA. The World Aquaculture Society, American Tilapia Association and Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) provided advertising and announcement support. GAA also provided 1000 complimentary copies of their Global Aquaculture Advocate magazine for inclusion in the conference bags. Unfortunately the magazines were held up at customs and were not released until after the conference was completed. They are eventually distributed at another aquaculture conference in a different province. Intervet-Schering-Plough provided \$10,000 in unrestricted support which was used to support coffee breaks and lunches. All of these sponsors have requested consideration to continue their support for the future ISTA's. Our current plans tentatively include ISTA 10 to be held at the Jerusalem Ramada Inn in September 2013 and ISTA 11 to be held in conjunction with the Indonesian Aquaculture Society Annual Meeting in Bali in 2015.