

WOAH Regional Aquaculture Networks



Training of National Focal Points for Aquatic Animal Health (Cycle IV)

2 - 4 October 2023 Kigali, Rwanda



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Regional networks for aquatic animal health

- Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific (AP-Net Aqua)
 - Regional collaboration to respond to emerging diseases
 - Biosecurity for small-scale aquaculture farms
- Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET)
 - First annual workplan drafted with a focus on laboratory capacity, AMU/AMR, research and development and knowledge sharing



Networks = Leadership

(Objective 4 of the strategy is Leadership)

- Develop international partnerships, engage scientific networks, establish forums for WOAHA community, develop regional networks
- Mechanism to meet regional needs and strengthen collaboration.
- 1st network launched: **Asia-Pacific** region (2018)
 - Used as model for Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET) (Nov, 2022)
 - 3 networks in Africa, North Africa (April 2023), Southern Africa (June 2023), laboratory network (planned Dec 2023)
- Plans to launch networks in Europe and Americas 2024
- Structured differently but all include AA FPs, Ref Centre representatives
 - Each work plan aligned to regional priorities

A photograph of three fishermen in traditional orange clothing and conical hats on a boat, pulling large fishing nets in a pond with lily pads. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the boat and the nets extending into the water. The water is dark, and the lily pads are scattered across the surface. The fishermen are working together to haul in the nets, which are filled with fish. The overall atmosphere is one of traditional, manual labor in a rural setting.

Regional Collaboration
Framework on Aquatic Animal
Health for Asia and the Pacific
(AP Net Aqua)

Rationale

Challenges

Increase in emerging disease occurrence but limited resource

Need for improved transparency of aquatic animal disease information

Lack of coordination mechanism among stakeholders

Regional experts agreed:

Need for proficiency testing, test validation, and emergency response

Need to draw existing activities and professional expertise of WOAHA Reference laboratories



Expert Consultation Meeting on Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Control, Bangkok, Thailand, November 2018

Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health for Asia and the Pacific

A framework to strengthen laboratory capacity for aquatic animal disease activities in Asia and the Pacific

Framework objectives

- Strengthen collaboration
WOAH Reference Centres and Members
- Share and exchange information
test validation, reference materials, and positive samples

Composition of the *Framework*

Steering Committee

- WOAHA Collaborating Centres
 - Diagnostic test validation science (1)
 - New and emerging diseases (1)
- WOAHA Reference laboratories (3)
- WOAHA FP for Aquatic Animals (4)
- WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Standard Commission (2)
- Regional partners
 - NACA, FAO, SEAFDEC
- Secretariat
 - WOAHA RRAP

Permanent Members

- WOAHA Collaborating Centres
 - Diagnostic test validation science
 - New and emerging diseases
- WOAHA Reference laboratories
- 32 FP for Aquatic Animals from Asia Pacific
- National Reference laboratories (as designed by WOAHA Delegates)

Ad hoc Members

Public and private universities, research institutions, private companies and donors

Roles and responsibilities (AP network)

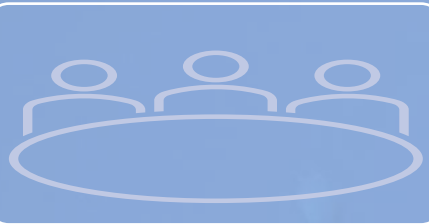
Reference Centres and Member representatives agreed to:

- **Coordinate and provide Proficiency testing programmes** across the Asia-Pacific region
- **Support emergency response and provide in-country training**
- Improve communication among and between Reference Centres and WOAHA Member Countries to **enable information, resource, technology and sample sharing** between parties
- Support and promote a **standardisation of methods to diagnose and confirm a pathogenic agent**

Stakeholder group members would support

- information sharing as well as research assistance and technical support especially on emerging diseases

Operational mechanisms



Steering Committee

- Develop a plan (objectives and implementation)
- Draft annual activities plan
- Prepare annual report for Regional Commission for Asia and Far East and Oceania



Members

- Support Steering Committee in planning and participating in activities
- Share and disseminate relevant information with other parties
- Contribute to preparations for an annual report



Secretariat

- Strengthen multilateral relations and communication
- Share and disseminate relevant information with other parties
- Support the Steering Committee and framework

Flagship activities (AP Network)

Aquaculture Biosecurity in small-scale holders

Evaluation of AHPND causative agent

Emergency response and preparedness

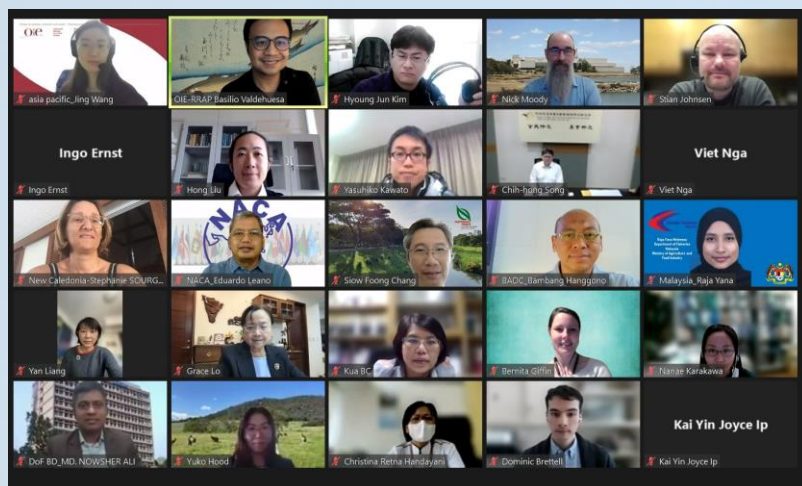


Collection and Evaluation of Existing Guidelines and Awareness Materials on Aquaculture Biosecurity for Small-scale Farms in the Asia-Pacific Region

Final Report

Prepared by:
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
Eduardo M. Leño (Project Leader)
Senior Programme Officer, Aquatic Animal Health Programme

June, 2022



Other activities

Training materials

[Sampling Methods of Histopathology for Fish and Shellfish](#) (shared by Dr. Miwa Satoshi)

Scientific information

[Activities of the WOAHP Reference Centres in Asia and the Pacific](#)

[Information on DIV1 positive control](#)

Events

- [11th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture](#) (Aug 2022)
- [13th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Virtual Forum](#) (May 2022)
- [Regional Webinar on Infection with Decapod Iridescent Virus 1 \(DIV1\) and Preparedness for Emerging Shrimp Diseases](#) (Sep 2020)

Disease cards

- [Tilapia lake virus \(TiLV\)](#)
- [Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans](#)
- [Infection with decapod iridescent virus \(DIV1\)](#)

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LAST UPDATED: 31 MAR 2023

Information Sharing Platform on Aquatic Animal Health



Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health for Asia and the Pacific



AQUATIC MIDDLE EAST NETWORK (AQMENET)



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



AQMENET includes the following countries, bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf:

Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen



OVERVIEW

- Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET) officially launched November 2022
- The first meeting of Steering Committee and Technical Committee held in June 2023
- Main objective of network: assist Members to develop their aquaculture sectors in a sustainable way, through implementation of WOAHA standards to improve the prevention, early detection, and control of aquatic animal diseases.

Steering Committee

- Chairperson
- WOAHA Delegates/ Chief Veterinary Officers from the 13 Member Countries
- Representative from WOAHA Headquarters
- Chair of the Technical Committee
- Representatives from partner organisations

Technical Committee

Permanent members

- National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals from the region
- Four representatives from WOAHA Reference Centres (Collaborating Centres and/or Reference Laboratories).
- A representative from WOAHA Headquarters
- An expert regional coordinator

Members engaged on and ad hoc basis

- Private sector
- Research institutions
- Donors

6 key areas for the draft work plan



BIOSECURITY & SURVEILLANCE



LABORATORY CAPACITY & DIAGNOSTICS



PVS EVALUATIONS



AMU AND AMR



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING



Thank you

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