

International Symposium on Koi Herpesvirus Disease
- Strategy for Koi Herpesvirus Disease Control -
(Saturday, 13 March 2004, Pacifico Yokohama Japan)

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It is a great honor for me to be here representing the SEAFDEC as a co-organizer of this international symposium on Koi Herpesvirus Disease (KHVD).

The SEAFDEC is an autonomous intergovernmental body established as a regional treaty organization in 1967 to promote fisheries development in South Asia. The member countries of SEAFDEC at present are Japan and 10 ASEAN countries. Four technical departments (Aquaculture, Fisheries resources research, Post-harvest processing and Training) and the Secretariat are established to pursue the objectives of SEAFDEC.

Aquaculture production has grown rapidly in last decade in Southeast Asia and has contributed much in food production and rural development in the region. However, infectious diseases are frequently found in aquaculture and have threatened the sustainability of aquaculture in Southeast Asia. Therefore, infectious disease has been one of serious concerns that the SEAFDEC has to tackle.

In Southeast Asia, KHVD was reported for the first time from Indonesia and Taiwan in 2002. The disease was also found in Japan in 2003, and KHVD has caused in high mortality of common and koi carp production in Indonesia and Japan. Common carp is an important food resources in rural areas of Southeast Asia, and koi carp is also internationally traded as valuable ornamental fish among countries. Under these situations, the SEAFDEC regards that KHVD is a newly emerging and serious threat to the common and koi carp aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

Since the year 2000, the Fish Disease Project has been implemented at the SEAFDEC as a Trust Fund Project sponsored by Government of Japan. Under this project, various researches and studies have been conducted on viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases of fish and shrimps by the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department in Philippines in collaboration with Thailand and Singapore as well as Philippines.

The occurrence of KHVD has been confined so far to Indonesia in Southeast Asia. In order to prevent the spread of KHVD in other member countries, the SEAFDEC has started various activities for this serious

disease through implementation of Trust Fund Project “Fish Disease Project” sponsored by Japan. One of major activities in 2004 is research on KHVD. Fish Health Section’s staff of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department have a plan to conduct research and studies in the region. Another major activity is to co-organize and hold international meetings on aquatic animal disease. In addition to this symposium, the SEAFDEC will organize a two-day workshop in Manila, Philippines in this June in order to assess the current occurrence of transboundary fish disease in Southeast Asia and to find appropriate ways for development of fish disease quarantine and surveillance system in the region.

International collaboration and network is essential to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in the other countries. In this connection, the SEAFDEC will conduct various major activities for KHVD and other diseases in collaboration with other international organizations such as OIE and FAO.

In conclusion, I would like to give my most sincere thanks to the Government of Japan for her great support, especially through the Trust Fund for Fish Disease Project to the SEAFDEC.

I would like also to express my wishes that this symposium will help prevention and control of KHVD in Japan, SEAFDEC member countries and other countries.