

## The First Asian Fisheries Forum

After its formation in 1984, the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) initiated its first Triennial Asian Fisheries Forum (1AFF), one of its stated objectives, to promote scientific exchanges amongst its members, regional and international researchers and other stakeholders including the wider fishing-based community. From the initial seven members, the Society has then grown into a strong regional Society with a membership of about 2,900 from 75 countries, including regions outside the Asia-Pacific.

Each triennial Forum (AFF), to be hosted and convene by a member of the Asian-Pacific (AP) countries, brings together all key aquaculture and fisheries stakeholders from the region and provides a venue to discuss regional priorities, common problems and research finding. It may also provide guidelines and direction to policymakers and planners attending the forum.



Group photograph for the May 1984 meeting at Los Baños, the Philippines that formally established the AFS.

L - R: Drs. Chua, Morton, I.C. Liao, R. Neal, Mr. Maclean, Drs. S. De Silva, B. Davy, Lam T.J., Ed Gomez, R. Hirano, R. Juliano and Chancellor D. Rola.

Missing is Dr. Piyakarnchana, the photographer



Councillors of the 1<sup>st</sup> AFS Council:  
Seated (L-R): Drs. Dionisia Rola, I Chiu Liao, Brian Davy, Chua Thia-Eng

(President), Reiji Hirano, Mr. Jay L. Maclean, Mrs. Liao & Dr Meng Qingwen  
Standing (L-R): Drs H. Muhammad Eidman, William Dall, Edgardo Gomez, Rogelio Juliano, Twesukdi Piyakarnchana, Sena S. De Silva & T. J. Lam

Missing: Drs Brian Morton, Richard A. Neal & U. Raj

The 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Fisheries Forum (1AFF) was successively held in 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 1986 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Manila, the Philippines with the theme "***Traditional Practices and New Frontiers in Asian fisheries***". The Forum was hosted by the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and was attended by some 408 participants from 27 countries with a total of 230 papers presented.

As the first forum of the Society, a strong Local Organizing Committee (LOC) chaired by Dr Rogelio Juliano, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) and supported by a team of councillors including Drs Efren Flores, Ed Gomez, Mr Jay MacLean and many others.

The forum consist of a Plenary Session and sessional papers covering a huge range of topics on fisheries and aquaculture.

**Plenary Session:**

1. ***An overview of the fisheries and aquaculture industries in Asia*** - by Chua Thia-Eng
2. ***New developments in fish nutrition*** - by Akio Kanazawa
3. ***Some advances in tropical fisheries research*** - by Daniel Pauly

**Sessions of 1AFF:**

1. Aquaculture Systems
  - 1.1. Monoculture
  - 1.2. Genetics
  - 1.3. Integrated farming
  - 1.4. Socio-economics
2. Biochemistry
3. Biology
  - 3.1. Developmental
  - 3.2. General
4. Fish Health, Pollution and Toxicity
  - 4.1. Bacterial diseases
  - 4.2. Parasites
  - 4.3. Pollution
  - 4.4. Toxicity
  - 4.5. Virus
  - 4.6. General study
5. Fisheries
  - 5.1. Development and management
  - 5.2. Education
  - 5.3. Gear and methods
  - 5.4. Information
  - 5.5. Postharvest and marketing
  - 5.6. Resource assessment
6. Nutrition and Feeding Habits
7. Physiology and
8. Reproduction



At the end of the forum, 167 scientific papers and major reviews covering Asian fisheries and aquaculture, developments in fish nutrition and advances in tropical fisheries research were compiled and published in the *Proceedings of the First Asian Fisheries Forum*, Manila, Philippines, 26-31 May 1986 - John L. Maclean, L. B. Dizon, Lucila V. Hosillos (Editors) 727 pp. Published by the Asian Fisheries Society 1986.

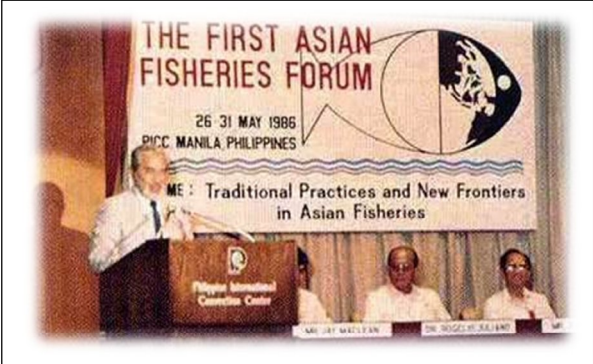
A hard copy of the proceedings is available at the AFS Secretariat located at UPM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For interested members, contact Ms Jocyntha Joseph, Executive Office, AFS at [info@asianfisheriessociety.org](mailto:info@asianfisheriessociety.org). As we have so few photos on this historical event, members who have pictures of 1AFF are encouraged to send a e-copy of the photos to Ms Jocyntha for archiving in the AFS *MyConferences* website [www.afsconferences.net](http://www.afsconferences.net)

Towards the end of the 1AFF, the Society held its 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (GA) attended by AFS members present at the triennial forum. During the GA, the Society confirmed the appointment of the AFS Second Council.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> AFS Council met after the GA, and, in accordance with the Constitution, conducted elections for office bearers of the Society. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng was unanimously re-elected as President. The members of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> AFS Councils are given below:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> AFS Council (1984-1986) and its members</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> AFS Council (1986 – 1999) and its members</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dr. Chua Thia-Eng - President</li> <li>➤ Dr. William Dall</li> <li>➤ Dr. Brian Davy</li> <li>➤ Dr. H. Muhammad Eidman</li> <li>➤ Dr. Edgardo Gomez</li> <li>➤ Dr. Reijiro Hirano</li> <li>➤ Dr. Rogelio Juliano</li> <li>➤ Dr. T.J. Lam</li> <li>➤ Dr. I Chiu Liao</li> <li>➤ Mr. Jay L. Maclean</li> <li>➤ Prof. Brian Morton</li> <li>➤ Dr. Richard A. Neal</li> <li>➤ Dr. Twesukdi</li> <li>➤ Piyakarnchana</li> <li>➤ Prof. Meng Qingwen</li> <li>➤ Dr. U. Raj</li> <li>➤ Dr. Dionisia Rola</li> <li>➤ Dr. Sena S. De Silva</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dr. Chua Thia-Eng - President</li> <li>➤ Dr. Kenji Chiba</li> <li>➤ Dr. Brian Davy</li> <li>➤ Dr. Muhammad Eidman</li> <li>➤ Mr. Darryl Grey</li> <li>➤ Dr. Reijiro Hirano</li> <li>➤ Dr. Rogelio Juliano</li> <li>➤ Dr. Akio Kanazawa</li> <li>➤ Dr. T.J. Lam</li> <li>➤ Dr. I Chiu Liao</li> <li>➤ Dr. Liu Hsi-Chiang</li> <li>➤ Mr. Jay L. Maclean</li> <li>➤ Dr. Minoru Nomura</li> <li>➤ Dr. Twesukdi Piyakarnchana</li> <li>➤ Prof. Meng Qingwen</li> <li>➤ Prof. H.P.C. Shetty</li> <li>➤ Dr. Sena S. De Silva</li> <li>➤ Dr. Elvira Tan (+)</li> <li>➤</li> </ul>

**Below are snapshots of some forum activities during the 1AFF.**



*The Opening Ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Fisheries Forum on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1986.*



*Indian members from the AFS-Indian Branch attended the 1AFF with AFS President Dr Chua Thia-Eng*



*Dr. Katsuzo Kuronuma, well known Japanese fisheries scientist, was awarded the AFS Honorary Life Member of the Society from AFS President Dr. Chua Thia-eng in 1986*



*Dr. Shao-Wen Ling, the "father" of Macrobrachium (giant freshwater prawn) culture, (right) was awarded the Honorary Life Member Award presented by Dr. Liao on behalf of the Society in 1986.*



*Dr Chen Jiann-Chu from the AFS Taiwan branch addressing the forum.*



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