

13AFAP REPORT

The Asian Fisheries Society recently held the 13th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum in Tainan, Taiwan at the National Cheng Kung University (AFAP <https://13afaf.tw/index.php>). This was the first virtual meeting of AFS in its 38 years as a society and was delivered through a combination of the Gather Town and WebEx platforms. Participants enjoyed the virtual experience, the quality of the presentations and the opportunities to meet and network with people finding it a “good place to meet others and listen to the speech”, enjoy “the virtual ambiance, session arrangements and proper utilization of virtual area and its allocation”, and helping “me connect with other scientists working in this field, and obtain extra knowledge”.

A total of 309 people from >18 countries participated in the Forum which had 97 speakers and 65 poster presentations arranged on eight topics: 1. Seaweed, Microalgae, and Aquafeed; 2. Fisheries and Aquaculture; 3. Breeding and Applied Biotechnology in Aquaculture; 4. Aquatic Animal Diseases and Health Management; 5. Fisheries Policy and Governance; 6. Gender Equality in Fisheries and Aquaculture; 7. Climate Resilience and Environmental Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture; 8. Artificial Intelligence, Aquaponics and Aquavoltaics. Student participation was encouraged in research and the Forum through the two Kanazawa Awards of USD 5,000 and >20 prizes for oral and poster presentations (see an announcement of prizes at <https://13afaf.tw>). Short videos of the opening and closing ceremonies are available at <https://13afaf.tw>. The current status of these topics, gaps, and future directions for research were identified at the conclusion of the conference and these provide valuable information for planning the 14th AFAP in 2025 in New Delhi.

During the conference, ~75 members of the AFS participated in the 14th General Assembly of the Society and elected the 14th Council of AFS, with Professor Neil Loneragan, Murdoch University, confirmed as President for 2022 to 2025. In addition to the AFAP meetings, the AFS (<https://www.asianfisheriessociety.org/>) also promotes the dissemination of science, and research collaborations and networks, by coordinating symposia on Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture (<https://www.genderaquafish.org>), Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (<http://www.fhs-afs.net/symposia.htm>), Cage Aquaculture in Asia (<https://www.afsconferences.net/category/caa/>) and International Symposia on Aquaculture and Fisheries Education (<https://isafe4.com.tw/home.jsp>).