

Minutes for the 38th UJNR Aquaculture Panel Business Meeting

The 38th Joint Meeting of the UJNR Aquaculture Panel was conducted from October 26th – 30th 2009 in and around Corpus Christi, Texas. The business meeting and the scientific symposium were held at Texas A & M Universities' Harte Research Institute (Corpus Christi, Texas) on October 26th and 27th. The field trip was conducted from October 28th-30th and included visits to Texas Parks and Wildlife, Flour Bluff Marine Fish Hatchery, the Texas A & M University, Agrilife Shrimp Aquaculture Research Station, Texas A&M Shrimp Aquaculture Laboratory, the University of Texas, Fisheries, and Mariculture Laboratory, Austwell Aquafarms, the Texas State Aquarium and an excursion demonstrating shrimp fishing on the R/V Karma. The theme of the symposium was "Interactions of fisheries and fishing communities related to aquaculture".

Opening Remarks

After declaring the opening of the meeting, Dr. Robert Iwamoto, chairman of the U.S. panel welcomed Chairman Iida and the Japan panel. He also explained that this year marks the final year of the seventh 3-year plan (previous plans covered 5 years). With the emphasis on interactions of fisheries and fishing communities related to aquaculture, this year's panel meeting addresses social and economic issues that are significant to both nations. Dr. Iwamoto informed the panel that NOAA has announced its intent to develop a comprehensive national policy for sustainable marine aquaculture. This policy will address many marine aquaculture issues including commercial production and stock enhancement, particularly for aquaculture in federal waters. Dr. Iwamoto stated that the UJNR aquaculture panel, both informally and formally, has accomplished much to address the many challenges

surrounding the role of aquaculture in our societies. The UJNR history document that is in preparation will serve to carry that message to others less familiar with the accomplishments of the panel.

Dr. Takaji Iida, chairman of the Japan panel, expressed his thanks to Chairman Iwamoto and the US panel. He also noted that the administrations in both countries had recently changed and that Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and President Barack Obama have recently met and reaffirmed the special relationship between Japan and the United States. Dr. Iida highlighted the importance of the scientific exchanges over the years and expressed his support for this years focus on regional industries and the next three year plan.

Introductions and adoption of the agenda

Following the remarks from the US and Japan chairmen, panel members and visitors introduced themselves. Dr. R. Iwamoto requested the agenda for this meeting to be adopted and all parties agreed.

Scientist Exchange

Dr. Takuro Shibuno, Secretary of the Japanese panel, reported that there have been 3 collaborative studies and 2 Japanese federal researchers have been working in US labs over the past year or two. Eighteen Japanese researchers attended 13 meetings and symposia held in the US in the past year. Dr. Shibuno provided the US panel with a document detailing the exchanges. In addition, Dr Shibuno provided the US panel with two copies and a CD containing the contents of technical reports published from the Prefectural Fisheries Research Institutes of Japan during 2008. Dr. Rust thanked Dr Shibuno and the Japanese panel for the reports.

Dr. Michael Rust, Vice-Chairman of the US panel, had not been able to identify any US researchers working in Japan during this past year, however he will keep working to identify some and will report later if he finds any.

Status of proceedings

Dr. Makoto Yamasaki, Deputy Secretary-General of the Japan panel, reported that the manuscripts for the proceedings of the 35th UJNR Symposium were all ready for final proof reading and scheduled for publication early in the new year.

Dr. M. Rust reported that the manuscripts for the proceedings of the 36th UJNR Symposium are printed. A copy of the proceedings is in the packet. Additional copies, will be mailed to Dr. Yamasaki, and a PDF file on a CD will be included. Dr. Yamasaki will determine the number of printed copies to be sent to Japan.

Dr. M. Yamasaki reported that all ten manuscripts for the proceedings of the 37th UJNR Symposium were now all edited and will likely be ready to print sometime in 2010. Dr. Yamasaki expressed his thanks to Dr. Robert Stickney for editing all the manuscripts.

Current Business – Status of 35 years of achievements report

Dr. Conrad Mahnken reported on the status of progress of the working group to produce a history of UJNR accomplishments. The members of the working group met in Narita, Japan on November 3rd 2008 to advance the work on this project. A draft of the first three chapters including the introduction were presented. Dr. C. Mahnken explained the basic layout of the document and went over the parts that were already drafted and those yet to be drafted. Dr. Mahnken suggested that it might make sense to expand to 40 years of UJNR to include more recent activities and

provide a more realistic time frame. Dr. Iida agreed to this change. Several panel members who are working on this project agreed to find time later during the UJNR panel meeting to work on details and action items.

Current Business – Adoption of the 8th three year plan

The panel worked on the next three year plan intersessionally and have a final plan ready for consideration and adoption. Dr. Iwamoto presented the plan as follows:

The Eighth Three-Year Plan of the UJNR Aquaculture Panel, 2010-2012

At the 37th Aquaculture Panel meeting, the US and Japan delegations agreed to focus the Eighth Three-Year Plan of the UJNR Aquaculture Panel on aquaculture industries of the two nations. In particular, the delegations decided that the future of aquaculture food production, stressing the importance of seafood, culture and health, and promoting the growth of local aquaculture industries would be of significant benefit as guiding issues for future panel meetings. The characterization, needs and function of our aquaculture industries are important to both nations. Given that competition with inexpensive imports will continue, both the US and Japan need to effectively develop and utilize technology to remain competitive. The people of Japan have a historical diet based on seafood and the value of seafood in the US diet is being increasingly recognized. Ways to sustain and improve aquaculture produced seafood locally in the diets of our populations, its history and the importance of seafood consumption will provide the motivation for the next three year plan. Science and technology which will promote local aquaculture industries in order to support the consumption of seafood for both cultural and health reasons will be highlighted. Based on this common understanding, we propose the following themes for the next three-year plan.

39th : The Present and Future of the Aquaculture industry (Japan, 2010)

Based on the goals of the third five-year-plan of FRA that will begin in 2011 and the NOAA and USDA strategic plans for aquaculture, the focus for this meeting will be to present and discuss issues concerning the history and role of aquaculture as well as future production systems and strategies used by each nation to promote aquaculture production, both from the standpoint of the farmer and the consuming public. The primary focus will be on problems faced by the aquaculture industries of the two nations and strategies and solutions to create competitive new and existing aquaculture industries. We will explore current aquaculture systems that are expanding and aquaculture systems that have the potential to expand in the future. We will consider the research needs to maximize the future potential of these industries by examining aquaculture production systems. Aquaculture systems include the whole process from spawning of a certain species to consuming the product including broodstock/hatchery, cultivation, harvest, processing and distribution as a commodity. From this exchange we expect to highlight key bottlenecks that need to be addressed in future meetings. In particular, we will propose a direction for our aquaculture industries and aquaculture research areas that are useful and necessary to promote effective consumer friendly industries that support our seafood culture and consumption. We will present and discuss issues about the history, role, and processes from producing to consuming, process of making a profit and how aquaculture can meet consumer needs.

40th : Hatchery Technology (US, 2011)

Based on the key bottleneck issues identified at the 39th scientific symposium related to seed supply we will focus on science and technical issues associated with

spawning and larval rearing to the juvenile (seedling) stage. Topics may include broodstock selection and management, breeding, spawning, egg development, larval health management (control of hatchery diseases), larval feeds and nutrition, management of the cultivation environment, and other topics important for rearing of healthy high-quality seedlings.

41st: Advanced Aquaculture Technologies (Japan, 2012)

This theme will focus on new and developing technologies that give promise to improve or revolutionize aquaculture. Based on the key bottleneck issues identified at the 39th scientific symposium related to health, growth and value of aquaculture products as seafood, we will focus on advanced science and technical issues that support and promote the industry. State of the art and advanced technologies which address any of the following are included in this theme: nutrition, control of maturation, regulation of fish growth, control of product quality, development of vaccines and other fish health management measures, and other topics which utilize application of gene information or other advanced technologies.

Dr. Iwamoto called for approval of this plan. Dr. Iida and the rest of the panel agreed. Therefore this plan was approved at the 38th meeting of UJNR, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, 2009.

Plans for the 39th UJNR meeting

Dr. Iida announced that the Japan Panel is still deciding the location for the 39th UJNR Meeting, however he confirmed that time frame would be October-November 2010 and the panel is thinking of the southern part of Japan perhaps on Kyushu near Kagoshima.

Plans for the 38th UJNR science symposium

Dr. M. Rust, science symposium organizer, reported on the details and schedule for the science symposium. He also requested feed back on the usefulness of the list of key works from the researchers on both sides.

Dr. R. Stickney explained the itinerary for the field trip.

New Business

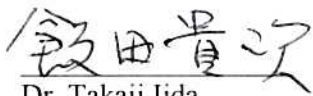
Dr Iwamoto called for any new business. None was suggested, however Dr. Iwamoto announced that he will be retiring this year and that Dr. Michael Rust will be the US Chairman next year.

Acknowledgements

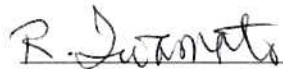
Dr. Iwamoto expressed his gratitude to the panel members and visitors involved in this meeting for their efforts. He also thanked the interpreters, Ms.Okubo and Mr. Wong for their contributions.

Conclusion

Since the business had been concluded, the 38th UJNR business meeting was adjourned. These minutes were signed on October 30th, 2009 in Corpus Christi, Texas.



Dr. Takaji Iida
Japan Chairman



Dr. Robert Iwamoto
U.S. Chairman