

SUMMARY OF AFAS2015

The ninth Annual Meeting of Asian Fisheries Acoustics Society, AFAS2015 entitled “The International Conference on Underwater Acoustics for Sustainable Fisheries in Asia” was held on 16-17 November 2015 at Windsor Suit Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. Approximately 70 scientists from 7 countries/regions including Japan, China, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia, Norway, and Thailand participated in the meeting. The conference consisted of Opening/Closing Sessions, Board Meeting, General Meeting, one Special Session, five Technical Sessions, one Poster Session, and Welcome/Farewell parties.

BOARD MEETING

A board meeting was held in the evening of 15 November, in Windsor Suit Hotel. The participants were K. Iida, Raja Bidin, D. Hwang, Y. Miyamoto, K. Miyashita, Y. Nishimori, K. Abe, Y. Theparoonrat, T. Yong, and A. Hamano. The board meeting commenced following greeting and reporting on general remarks from the Chairman, and reporting on activities in their responsible portfolio by the SG Chairpersons, WG Chairpersons, regional representatives, and the chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee.

(1) Science group

SGAT (Y. Nishimori) reported about recent activities on the recent advanced technologies in fisheries acoustics. SGTS (K. Sawada by document) reported on theoretical and practical problems on fisheries acoustics including target strength. SGES (K. Miyashita) reported on research methodologies and evaluation of practical acoustic fisheries survey. SGAA (T. Akamatsu by document) reported on broad aspects of underwater acoustics for fishery and fishery surveys including environmental assessment and passive sonar. SGEM (T. Mukai by document) reported on methodologies and evaluation of ecosystem monitoring using acoustics.

(2) Regional organization

HWANG (Korea) reported activities in Korea, TANG (China) reported Activities in China and Raja Bidin (Malaysia): reported activities in South East Asia.

(3) Working group

WGPF (D. Hwang) reported about activities of working group on pelagic fish, WGJF (D. Hwang) reported about working group on jellyfish, and WGBT (Y. Miyamoto) reported about working group on biotelemetry.

(4) Organizing AFAS2015

The current status in organizing AFAS2015 was reported by Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat, the chair of Local Organizing Committee, pertaining registration, invited speakers, technical session, parties, finance, publication etc.

(5) Election of new directors

Due to the term of office for current board members expired during AFAS2015, new board members for next term of office were elected by the vote. The total of 16 directors and 2 advisors were nominated. These include a chairman and two vice chairmen were elected by mutual vote.

(6) Overview of AFAS and policy for future

Overviews of AFAS activities for the past 9 years and policy for future work were also discussed. These include annual meeting, research, education, local promotion, and business on fisheries acoustics in Asia. Some positive aspects of AFAS activity including collaborative research, research funds, motivation for students and young engineers, activation of domestic research, and business opportunities were also emphasized. Some negative aspects including organization of administration and financial issue were discussed. The meeting also recommended to share administrative work and to keep the balance of funding in AFAS meeting for usage in the next AFAS program.

(7) Venue and date for AFAS2016

Based on past meetings (AFAS2007 in China, AFAS2008 in Korea, AFAS2009 in Taiwan, AFAS2010 in Malaysia, AFAS2011 in China, AFAS2012 in Korea, AFAS2013 in Japan, AFAS2014 in Taiwan, AFAS2015 in Thailand), the next place of AFAS meeting was discussed and proposed. At last, Hakodate in Japan was nominated as potential candidate for coming venue of AFAS2016. Dates were expected in the second week of November, 2016.

OPENING SESSION

Opening Session was held on the first day morning at the conference room in Windsor Suit Hotel. Opening addresses included by Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan, Chairman of Steering Committee, Professor Kohji IIDA, Chairman of AFAS, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Methee Kaewnern, representative from Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Mr. Bundit Chokesangun, Acting Training Department Chief, SEAFDEC on behalf of hosting organization. A group photo of all the participants was taken in the meeting room.

SPECIAL SESSION

Two invited speakers gave their talks in the morning session of the first day. Dr. Satoshi Ishikawa, from Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) gave a talk on “Acoustic technology can contribute positively to the development of area-capability cycles for coastal fisheries”, and Dr. Hiromichi MITAMURA from Kyoto University gave another talk on “Endangered species Mekong giant catfish: Acoustic telemetry solves the mystery of the giant catfish ecology”. As a mark of appreciation, AFAS2015 Steering Committee Chairman presented a small gift to all of them.

GENERAL MEETING

The general meeting was held in the afternoon of the second day at the conference room. Professor Akira Hamano, as Advisor of AFAS took the chair for the meeting. Following the greeting from Chairman, activities in Science Group, regional organization, and Working Group were reported. Following eight issues were proposed by the board of directors and approved.

- (1) General report of AFAS
- (2) Report from Science Group
- (3) Report from Working Group
- (4) Report from Regional Organization
- (5) Report from LOC of AFAS2015

Current situation for organizing AFAS2015 was reported by Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat, the chair of Local Organizing Committee. Total of 66 participants from 7 countries/regions, 2 invited speakers, 30 presentations and 7 sponsors were reported.

- (6) Election of new directors

Based on AFAS statutes, total of 18 board members for the next term of office were recommended by the board. As a new chairman, Prof. K. Iida will remain as AFAS Chairman for the first one year (2016) then will hand over to Dr. Y. Miyamoto, and as for two Vice chairmen, Mr. R. Bidin for two years and Dr. Y. Miyamoto for first year then will hand over to Dr. T. Mukai in 2017 as proposed.

- (7) Overview of AFAS and policy for future

Overviews of AFAS activities for past 9 years and policy for future work were also discussed.

Positive aspects of AFAS activity including collaborative research, research funds, motivation for students and young engineers, activation of domestic research, and business chances were emphasized. Also in order to precede the AFAS program with smooth progress, sharing of administrative work and reservation of surplus money were recommended.

- (8) Venue and date for AFAS2016

Hakodate in Japan was nominated as the next place of AFAS2016. Dates were expected in the second week of November, 2016. The responsible person is Dr. T. Mukai from Hokkaido University.

TECHNICAL SESSION

A total of five technical sessions and one poster session were run in the afternoon of the first day and entire day of the second day including 24 oral presentations (SGAT 6, SGTS 3, SGAA 5, SGEN 5, SGEM 5), and 6 poster presentations. The chairpersons of each Science Groups took chairs of the technical sessions. The poster presentations by the sponsors were given two days at the vicinity of conference lobby.

After technical session closed, the Young Fisheries Acoustician Award (YFAA) was given to **Dr. Minlee YAP** for her excellent presentation entitled “Developing an Inter-individual communication biologging system”, and the Student Best Presentation Awards (SBPA) was given to **Mr. Hiroki Higashisaka** for his excellent presentation entitled “Presence and behaviour of harbour porpoise around a set net by using passive acoustic monitoring”. Awards and small gifts were presented to these two winners by the AFAS Chairman.

CLOSING SESSION

The Chairman delivered a greeting and summaries of all the presentations at the closing ceremony. The closing session addressed the importance of research in: broadband technology which has been actively carried out; research in hardware and software, which are simple and easy but also scientifically made; research in the application of acoustics to the monitoring ecosystems, passive acoustics, acoustic telemetry, ambient noises, which has increased interest. Lastly, the following three topics were announced as recommended study areas: 1) Studies on the identification of fish species using broadband technologies should progress. 2) A simple yet scientific echo sounder for generalizing fisheries acoustic techniques in Asia should develop. 3) More efforts for better organization and activation in regions and countries should be made. The AFAS 2015 concluded successfully.

PARTIES

A welcome party was held at the Windsor Suit Hotel after finishing the first day of the conference. After the meeting on the second day, a farewell party was held again at the

Windsor Suit Hotel. Approximately 60 persons participated in the parties. Representatives from sponsors and members of LOC were introduced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.Directors of AFAS (FY2016-2017)

	Name	Affiliation	Country /Region	Pos.	Charge
1	Kohji IIDA	HU	Japan	Ch	Chairman(2016)
2	Raja Bidin	MFRDMD	Malaysia	Vc	Vice Chair/ S.E.Asia
3	Doojin HWANG	CNU	Korea	Dr	Korea/SGES
4	Yoshinori MIYAMOTO	TUMST	Japan	Vc/Ch	Vice Chair/ WGBT, Chairman(2017)
5	Kazushi MIYASHITA	HU	Japan	SG	SGES
6	Yasushi NISHIMORI	FURUNO	Japan	SG	SGAT
7	Yong TANG	DOU	China	Dr	China/SGTS
8	Ming An LEE	NTOU	Taiwan	Dr	Taiwan
9	Koki ABE	NRIFE	Japan	Dr	Membership
10	Masahiko FURUSAWA	TUMST	Japan	Ad	Advisor
11	Akira HAMANO	NFU	Japan	Ad	Advisor
12	Kouichi SAWADA	NRIFE	Japan	SG	SGTS
13	Hsueh-Jung LU	NTOU	Taiwan	Dr	Taiwan
14	Xianyong ZHAO	YSFRI	China	Dr	China
15	Hyonok SHIN	PKNU	Korea	Dr	Korea
16	Tohru MUKAI	HU	Japan	SG/Vc	SGEM, Vice Chair(2017)
17	Tomonari AKAMATSU	NRIFE	Japan	SG	SGAA
18	Yuttana Theparoonrat	SEAFDEC	Thailand	Dr	Thailand

