

SUMMARY OF AFAS2013

The seventh annual meeting of Asian Fisheries Acoustics Society (AFAS2013) entitled “The International Conference on Underwater Acoustics for Sustainable Fisheries in Asia” was held on 5-6 Nov 2013 at Suzuki Zenko room of Rakusui hall, at Shinagawa campus, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Japan. Approximately 70 scientists from 9 countries including Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Australia, USA, Spain and Norway participated. The conference consisted of Opening/Closing Sessions, Special session, 5 Technical sessions, Poster session, and Welcome/Farewell parties.

Board meeting

The board meeting was held at 5 PM on the day before the conference at Room no. 418, Building 1 of Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. The participants were K. Iida, Raja H., M. Furusawa, D. Hwang, K. Miyashita, Y. Miyamoto, K. Sawada, K. Abe, M. Lee, Y. Nishimori, and T. Mukai. The board meeting commenced following greeting and reporting on general remarks from the Chairman, and reporting on activities in their fields by the SG Chairperson, the WG Chairperson, each area board member, and the local organizing committee Chairperson.

- 1) Election of new director: In accordance with the Statutes of AFAS, thirteen directors and two new directors were nominated by the Chairman, and were approved by the vote of all members. An election was also held for the Chairman and the Vice-chairmen. Iida was elected as a Chairman, and Miyamoto and Raja were elected as Vice-chairmen. Hamano and Furusawa were appointed advisers for next two years.
- 2) Restructuring of the SG: A new Science Group of Ecosystem Monitoring (SGEM) was approved since a number of presentations on field survey have been increased. Therefore, SG consists of AT, TS, ES, AA, and EM. Nishimori for the chair of SGAT, Sawada for the chair of SGTS, Miyashita for the chair of SGES, Akamatsu for the chair of SGAA, and Mukai for the chair of SGEM were appointed respectively.
- 3) Set-up of Award Committee (AC): The set up of AC and evaluation rules of YFAA and BSPA were explained by Sawada, and they were approved. The Chairperson of the AC was appointed to Sawada.
- 4) Schedule of AFAS2014: It was accepted that the next annual meeting will be held at Kaohsiung, Taiwan, as suggested by the Chairman. Accordingly, a proposal was made for the AFAS2014 to be held at Kaohsiung University of Marine Science and Technology, and the board members approved that proposal.
- 5) Relating to becoming NPO: The Chairperson proposed that the AFAS become an NPO. Thus, there was a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of becoming an NPO. The decision was that further considerations were necessary.

Opening Session

The opening session was held on the first day (5 November) at the Rakusui Hall. The opening ceremony included greetings from the Chairman, congratulatory speeches from Chairman of the Japanese Marine Acoustical Society, Prof. Endo, who jointly organized the AFAS2013, and opening remarks from the Chairperson of AFAS2013, Prof. Miyamoto were addressed in the opening ceremony. A group photo of all the participants was taken in the conference room.

Special Session

Two invited speakers who spoke in the morning session of the first day and one invited speaker who spoke in the morning session of the second day presented at the special session. Dr. David Demer gave a talk on the “International significance and trends of acoustic research”, and Dr. Hayato Kondo presented on “Fisheries application of autonomous underwater vehicle”. Dr. Michel Andre, on the second day, gave a talk on the topic of “Listening to the Deep-Ocean; A global underwater noise monitoring initiative”.

General Meeting

The general meeting was held in the afternoon of the second day at the conference room. Prof. Hamano took the chair of the meeting. Following the greeting from Chairman, activities in Science Group, regional

organization, and Working Group were reported. Following four issues were proposed by the board of directors and approved.

- 1) Election of new directors: Fifteen directors for next term of years were elected. The new chairman was appointed to K. Iida, and two new Vice-chairmen were appointed to Y. Miyamoto and Raja Hassan. Hamano and Furusawa were also appointed as advisers for next two years.
- 2) Restructuring of the SG: A new Science Group of Ecosystem Monitoring (SGEM) was approved. Nishimori for the chair of SGAT, Sawada for the chair of SGTS, Miyashita for the chair of SGES, Akamatsu for the chair of SGAA, and Mukai for the chair of SGEM were appointed respectively.
- 3) Set-up of Award Committee (AC): The set-up of Award Committee and evaluation rules of YFAA and SBPA were explained by Sawada, and they were approved. The Chairperson of the AC was appointed to Sawada.
- 4) Schedule of AFAS2014: A proposal for the AFAS2014 to be held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, was approved as follows. Date: Second week of November, 2014, Place: National Kaohsiung Marine University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Organizer: Jen-Ming, Liu.

Technical Session

A total of six technical sessions were held in the afternoon of the first day and in the morning and afternoon of the second day including 28 oral presentations (SGES 15, SGAT 5, SGAA 4, and SGTS 4). The chairpersons from the science groups chaired the technical sessions. There was a poster session in the afternoon of the second day, and three people presented. The presentations by the sponsors were given over two days at the venue. This conference was co-organized with Japanese Marine Acoustic Society. Presenters were encouraged to submit their results to the Journal of Marine Acoustic Society of Japan.

Closing Session

The Chairman delivered a greeting and summaries all the presentations at the closing ceremony. The closing session addressed the importance of research in: broadband, which has been actively carried out; reach in hardware and software, which are simple and easy but also scientifically made; research in the application of acoustics to the monitoring of ecosystems, including the monitoring of non-fish organisms, which has increased.

Lastly, the following three topics were announced as recommended study areas: 1) In the future, study on the identification of fish species using broadband technologies should progress. 2) A simple yet scientific system for generalizing fisheries acoustic techniques in Asia should develop. 3) More efforts for better organization and activation on regions and countries should be made. The 2013 AFAS concluded successfully.

Parties

A welcome party was held at the conference hall after finishing the first day of the conference. After the meeting on the second day, a farewell party was held at Top of the Sky in Tokyo Daiichi Hotel Beaufort Shinagawa. Approximately 70 people participated in the farewell party. During the party, LOC was introduced. The Young Fisheries Acoustician Award (YFAA) was given to Tomohito Imaizumi for his presentation entitled "The measurement of fish close to the bottom by the broadband split-beam echo sounder", and the Student Best Presentation Awards (SBPA) to Jianfeng Tong for his presentation entitled "New 3G network based remote display fish finder system" and to Mika Kuroda for her presentation entitled "Geographical distribution of acoustic impedance in the head of harbor porpoise (*phocoena phocoena*)" and awards were presented by the Chairman. There were greetings from Miyamoto and Raja, the new Vice Chairpersons. Jen-Ming Liu, a representative for next AFAS conference, introduced the venue, Kaohsiung of Taiwan and Kaohsiung Ocean University, by showing a video.

Acknowledgements

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