

aquacultureNEWS

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FRONT COVER: *Macrobrachium* broodstock collector, Noakhali, Bangladesh.
Photograph by Anton Immink
MONTAGE PHOTOGRAPHS: Courtesy of friends from Bangladesh

This issue of Aquaculture News celebrates 25 years of collaboration between the Institute of Aquaculture and Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). Over the years the collaboration between our two institutions has been very successful and of enormous mutual benefit in both lecturing and research.

Starting with Chris Sommerville's visit by riverboat over 20 years ago, the majority of our academic staff and several of our technical staff have spent enjoyable and rewarding time in Mymensingh and many BAU faculty have come to Stirling, often with their families, leading to many lasting friendships. The articles in this issue of Aquaculture News illustrate the many personal and academic links that have been built up over the years. Initially we at Stirling attempted to assist our BAU colleagues in curriculum development, research training and infrastructure improvements, mostly funded by ODA (DFID). As part of this process many BAU faculty came to Stirling to study for PhDs and for post doctoral research. Since then BAU has become a major research partner for the Institute in a number of very important DFID and EU funded projects and the contribution of BAU colleagues has been crucial to their success.

I know that the experience and knowledge that we at Stirling have gained from our collaboration have greatly influenced our whole approach to aquaculture development work and the lessons we have learnt have been applied to other countries.

We look forward to continued close links with BAU, and in this respect I am very pleased that the new distance learning MSc in Aquatic Resource Development, co-developed with BAU and funded by the Association of Commonwealth Universities will shortly enrol its first group of students from Bangladesh. We are very grateful to BAU for their enormous input into this exciting concept and we hope it will be a model for similar developments elsewhere.

We at Stirling confidently look forward to a further 25 years of association with BAU.

This issue also contains details of an exciting Darwin Initiative funded project in Mexico concerned with the conservation of endangered whitefish species. The project demonstrates how aquaculture techniques can, if properly applied, be a valuable tool in the conservation of aquatic species, while improving the economic conditions of local communities.

At Stirling large-scale infrastructure improvements are underway which will greatly increase our research capability, particularly in molecular biology. A number of major new projects in this field are about to commence and will be reported in future issues of Aquaculture News. These developments will further strengthen the Institute's role in both strategic and applied research, a mix which has served us so well and that we strive to maintain.

PROFESSOR RANDOLPH RICHARDS

Contents

Pescado blanco	2
Theses list	4
Arctic Charr	5
25 year celebrations	6
BAU research groups	8
Stirling memories	10
Student experience	12
Today's development	14
Fields of fish	15
New MSc	17
Alumni from Bangladesh	18
Decentralised seed	20
AFGRP success	22
Aquaculture Innovation Network	24
Research Awards	25
Out and about	26
PAL update	27
Book reviews	28
New Bioimaging facility	30
Staff and Student news	31

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