

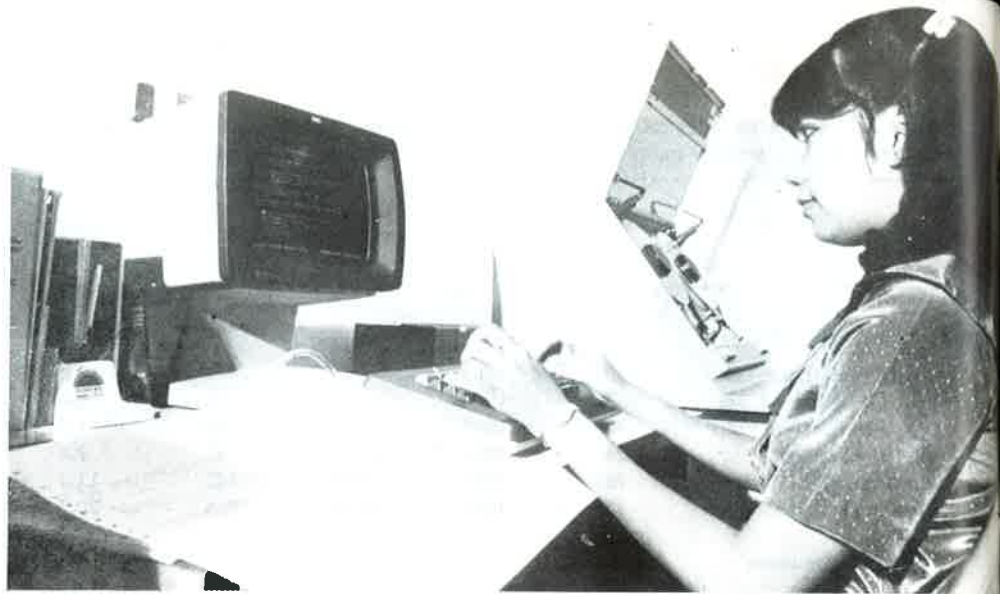
The Agricultural Information Bank for Asia (AIBA) began in 1974 as a regional source of agricultural literature and a regional inputting center for the global agricultural database AGRIS (International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology). The operation is computerized and produces a quarterly printout journal, AGRIASIA, which includes citations and sources of articles from the region (from AIBA's large network of inputting centers in Southeast Asia and beyond) as well as citations about the region from external sources (from the AGRIS database).

Both AGRIS and AGRIASIA include several headings for fisheries and aquatic sciences; the AIBA network includes a number of fisheries institutions in the various inputting countries, such that there has been good coverage of aquatic literature in the AIBA database.

However, AIBA and its valuable quarterly output AGRIASIA have received little publicity, at least in aquatic science institutions. The growing body of relevant literature in the database was largely ignored until AIBA personnel began to augment the fisheries-related citations in 1982 and produced the first Southeast Asian bibliography of fisheries later that year in time for the seminar on fisheries information in Southeast Asia in Bangkok (see p. 25). The bibliography contains 2,500 entries covering the years 1976 to 1982. Updates are planned.

AIBA is also now the regional coordinating center for another FAO information service—CARIS, the Current Agricultural Research Information System. This computerized database gives information on *who* is doing *what* in developing countries. There is no fisheries equivalent to CARIS but the database includes many fisheries and aquatic science entries. The CARIS questionnaires seem to be sent to a very broad range of organizations.

The first CARIS regional directory of ongoing research is presently being processed and is expected to be completed by the end of April 1984. Called CARIS-ASIA, the initial listing will be composed of 800 entries from the eight member countries of the AIBA network. The printed edition of the regional directory which will be composed of some 8,000



AIBA is fully computerized. Shown here is a staff member inputting bibliographic material into AIBA's HP 3000 computer.

AIBA and Aquatic Science Information in Southeast Asia

ongoing research projects will be ready by mid-1985.

These two activities, AGRIASIA and CARIS, constitute a strong information base in Southeast Asia for fisheries and aquatic sciences. Participants of the regional seminar on fisheries information in Bangkok recommended that AIBA continue its interest in and expand

its coverage of fisheries information sources. The foundation of a useful information service has been laid and AIBA intends to continue to upgrade the fisheries and aquatic-science input of AGRIASIA to answer the long-felt need for such a service in Southeast Asia. ●

How to Use AIBA

To use AIBA's service, readers have several choices: (i) subscribe to AGRIASIA, the quarterly bibliographic printout from the database, thus accessing all the agricultural literature from the region: aquatic sciences and fisheries together usually make up only 5% of these entries; (ii) consult the nearest agricultural library which should subscribe or be asked to subscribe to AGRIASIA; (iii) purchase the fisheries bibliographies as they are produced by AIBA; or (iv) ask for a search in your subject area.

The costs of these alternatives are quite different. Annual subscription to AGRIASIA is US\$80.00. The first fisheries bibliography (1976-1982) costs ₱84 or \$19.00 airmailed overseas. A search of the database for a particular topic may be free, depending on circumstances. In all cases, there will be added costs to obtain hard copies of the documents needed. AIBA has most of the documents on microfiche and the printed citations always indicate the source of each document cited.

Enquiries regarding sales, subscriptions or searches should be addressed to The Project Manager, AIBA/SEARCA, College, Laguna 3720, Philippines.