



Asian Fisheries Society council members (left to right): Chua Thia-Eng, William Dall, Brian Morton, Liao I-Chiu, Richard Neal, Jay Maclean, Sena de Silva, Brian Davy, T.J. Lam, Edgardo Gomez, Reijiro Hirano, Rogelio Juliano and Dionisia Rola. Twesukdi Piyakarnchana is not shown.

The Asian Fisheries Society

On 2 May 1984, the Asian Fisheries Society was officially established with the adoption of a constitution and election of office bearers at a brief meeting in Los Baños, Philippines.

It was the culmination of efforts by a group of senior Asian scientists over the last 12 months to respond to the interest and enthusiasm shown by the many individuals and organizations contacted about the growing need for better communication between the region's scientists and technicians.

The new Society had its beginning in a meeting of a small group of scientists in Manila in May 1983 at which a proposal for a regular regional meeting of researchers working in fisheries and aquaculture was proposed. The concept of a society followed naturally as the best means to ensure continuity of the regional meetings or forums.

Readers will remember the questionnaire that was sent out by ICLARM in the July 1983 Newsletter. About 600 completed questionnaires have been returned so far and the number is still growing. Virtually all replies have favored the proposal for the regular Forum and formation of a Society. In addition the response has been practically unanimous about the need for a regional fisheries journal, lacking until now.

The group of seven scientists that met in May 1983 formed themselves into a Foundation Council. They coopted a further seven scientists mostly from universities around Asia to ensure that the group was representative of the Asian fisheries community, although all members are acting in their personal capacities only.

Encouraged by the large and positive response to the questionnaires the expanded group planned to meet in May 1984. They had been further encouraged by the positive reactions from both research and donor organizations. ICLARM had funded and hosted the first meeting. The International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) offered to provide funds for the second meeting, while the University of Tokyo, Japan, the University of Hongkong, the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research facilitated the presence of Foundation Council members from those countries.

The expanded Foundation Council met over three days, 30 April to 2 May 1984 at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños campus, in intensive sessions that lasted late into the night. In two days they finalized plans for the first Asian Fisheries Forum, drafted a constitution for the Asian Fisheries Society,

and drew up guidelines for Forum and Society activities. On 2 May, the Foundation Council completed its work and was dissolved. Then in a short, historic meeting the participants signed the constitution, adopting it as the basis of the Asian Fisheries Society.

Goals of the Society

The Society has the following objectives:

1. To promote effective interaction and cooperation among the scientists and technicians involved in fisheries research and development in Asia with a view to encouraging and facilitating research activity complementation, sharing of information, and publication of research results.
2. To create and propagate an awareness of the importance and the ways of sound utilization, cultivation, conservation and development of aquatic resources in the region.
3. To promote the establishment of national fisheries societies and to seek affiliation and cooperation with societies, organizations and institutions having similar objectives.

These objectives are to be pursued by:

- a) providing an effective mechanism, in the form of an Asian fisheries journal for the dissemination of research and other relevant information;
- b) holding, on a regular-rotational basis, an Asian Fisheries Forum as a gathering of scientists and technicians who, in their professional capacities, can freely discuss broad issues and specific topics related to fisheries, and publishing the proceedings;
- c) providing further opportunities as appropriate for fisheries scientists and technicians to foregather by the holding of meetings, symposia, workshops, conferences or other gatherings;
- d) addressing important issues related to fisheries interests in the region.

The Society's objectives have far reaching implications beyond the holding of the Forum and producing a regional journal. The Society wants to help



Councilors visited the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños campus, Dr. Emil Javier (*left*). Dr. Javier, who is also the Philippine Minister of Science, announced that the National Science and Technology Authority would consider co-hosting the 1986 Forum. With Dr. Javier are Dr. Brian Davy, Dr. Twesukdi Piyakarnchana, Dr. Tom Lam, Dr. Sena de Silva and Dr. Chua Thia Eng.

strengthen national groups on the one hand, and to address important regional issues on the other.

The First Asian Fisheries Forum

The first major event for the Asian Fisheries Society is the first Forum. As previously announced, it will take place in May 1986 in Manila, Philippines. A detailed timetable is now available (see box). A call for papers will be sent out later this year. However, scientists throughout Asia are encouraged to begin preparing to present research results at the meeting, especially if related to the conference theme—"Traditional Practices and New Frontiers in Asian Fisheries".

The conference will be co-hosted by the University of the Philippines and other Philippine agencies.

Society Membership

Membership is now open and you are cordially invited to apply. Full voting membership is limited to those who are engaged in or who have engaged in a branch of fisheries science in its broadest sense; they should also have a first degree or equivalent qualification. There is no geographic limitation.

For those persons interested in the activities and objectives of the Society but not meeting the requirements of full membership, there is Student and Associate membership. Institutional, Sustaining and Patron membership categories are also available.

Although it was proposed that there be no annual dues to become a full, student or associate member, the Society

felt that some *entry* fee should be paid to help the establishment of the Society. All members enjoy a number of privileges, such as substantial discounts on all future Society publications and on registration fees at Forum meetings. Full members further have the right to vote on Society matters, the opportunity to be elected to the Society's Council and the oppor-

tunity to receive financial support to attend the Forum meetings.

Full and Associate membership entry fee is US\$10, student members, \$5. Institutions wishing to support the objectives and activities of the Society are requested to pay \$50/year.

Membership is not automatic. Applications will require endorsement by two Society members and approval by the Society Council.

Do not send payment now. An application form will be sent in response to your enquiry. **PERSONS WHO EARLIER RETURNED THE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE SENT AN APPLICATION FORM AUTOMATICALLY.** They are eligible to become the Society's founding members. ●

All enquiries about Society membership and the first Asian Fisheries Forum should be sent to: The Secretary, Asian Fisheries Society, c/o MCC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines.

For your conference calendar

The First Asian Fisheries Forum

26-31 May 1986
Manila, Philippines

Theme

"Traditional Practices and New Frontiers in Asian Fisheries"

Agenda

Sunday, 25 May
Registration

Thursday, 29 May
Whole day : Field Trips

Monday, 26 May
Morning : Opening Ceremony
and Planning Session
Afternoon : Scientific Session

Friday, 30 May
Morning : Scientific Session
Afternoon : General Assembly of the
Asian Fisheries Society

Tuesday, 27 May
Whole day : Scientific Sessions

Saturday, 31 May
Morning : Scientific Session
Afternoon : Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, 28 May
Whole day : Scientific Sessions

Enquiries: The Secretary
Asian Fisheries Society
c/o MCC P.O. Box 1501
Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines