



Small Xmas party at RRAP

INTERNSHIP ON AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

I am on seconded from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to the University of Tokyo for two years from April 2020, where I am working on marine biosecurity project under the University of Tokyo Ocean Alliance. During this time at the University of Tokyo, I am also supporting OIE activities of aquatic animal health as an OIE fellow and mainly working on "Collection and Evaluation of Existing Guidelines and Awareness Materials on Aquaculture Biosecurity for Small-scale Farms in the Asia-Pacific Region".

Many countries in Asia and the Pacific region face a lot of challenges in the implementation of guidelines for aquaculture biosecurity, especially at the farm level. The aim of this activity is to support members understand how to utilize the available resources or further improve their regulation, awareness materials and technical guidelines. In this activity, specifically, I have made an evaluation sheet for guidelines, and I am filling in the sheets for collected guidelines.

This activity is conducted together with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), and we have online meetings to discuss how to progress this activity. Through this fellowship program, I am able to know the circumstances of aquaculture biosecurity in other countries and learn about the ongoing international activities in aquatic animal health and how to conduct the activities with other international organizations.

PREVIOUS INTERNSHIP

Actually, when I was a PhD student, I was an intern at the OIE RRAP from May 2013 to March 2014. At that time, I edited and analyzed the Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) reports. I also had the opportunity to participate in "the OIE Regional Workshop on Emergency Aquatic Animal Disease Response" in Bali, where I gave a presentation on the results of my analysis of the QAAD report.

INTERNSHIP REPORT

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At the workshop, I was able to talk directly with the people in charge of aquatic animal health in each country, and I learned that this kind of human network is very important in strengthening international collaboration and cooperation. It also caused me interested in working for MAFF.

MESSAGE FOR FUTURE INTERNS

In recent years, global aquaculture production has continued to increase and trade in aquatic animals and their products have also expanded worldwide. Accordingly, the risk of the spread of aquatic animal diseases is increasing and there is a growing global concern about the issue of aquatic animal health. The OIE has therefore launched its first Aquatic Animal Health Strategy in May 2021. The OIE internship program provides an excellent opportunity to learn about international activities in aquatic animal health.