

Mr John Valbo Jorgensen



John Valbo Jorgensen joined the Inland Water Resources and Aquaculture Service (FIRI) on 1st September 2004 as Fishery Resources Officer (Fisheries Ecology). John obtained a Master of Science (M. Sc.) degree in biology from the University of Copenhagen in 1994. His thesis work concerned the ecology

of the fishes of the Orinoco floodplain (Venezuela). After his graduation, he was involved in research in Paraguay, and was on study tours to the Colombian Amazon and Peru. From 1997 to 2001, he shifted to Asia to work for the Mekong River Commission (MRC) as a fisheries biologist. During this time he was mainly working on a basin-wide study concerning the spawning and migration of commercially important fish species using local knowledge, and a survey of juvenile and larval fishes in the Mekong Delta. From 2001 until accepting the FAO job, he worked on various assignments as a freelance consultant for the Living Aquatic Resources Research Centre in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Danida, and MRC, including the following projects:

- A study of Mekong deep pools and their role as fish refuges in Lao PDR and Cambodia. For this study the methods used involved both the collection of local knowledge, Catch Per Unit of Effort data and hydro-acoustics.
- An assessment of the biological and socio-economic impacts of different fisheries management schemes and the development of a fish biodiversity collection system in various water bodies in Southern Bangladesh.

He finally provided information for and edited MRC's Mekong Fish Database, and he has written multiple publications aimed mainly at a general audience.

At FAO, John will be working with the environmental aspects of inland water development for fisheries and aquaculture. This will include elements such as the capture of juvenile fish for culture, responsible stocking

schemes, species introductions, and the linkages between biodiversity, fisheries and food security. John can be reached at John.Jorgensen@fao.org; Room F517, ext. 56787.



Ms Melba G. Bondad- Reantaso

In September 15, 2004, Melba B. Reantaso joined the FIRI service as Fisheries Resources Officer (Aquaculture). A scholar of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (Monbusho), Melba completed a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Fisheries Science in 1995 from the



University of Tokyo and a one year post-doctoral research fellowship grant (1998-1999) funded by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) from the Japan Veterinary and Animal Science University, both in Tokyo. She obtained a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Zoology from the University of the Philippines (1981) and a M.Sc. in Biology from the De La Salle University (1989). In 2000, she retired from the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, after 18 years working in various capacities starting as a Junior Fishery Biologist to Senior Fishery Biologist and Senior Aquaculturist (Aquaculture Division). She was on secondment to the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific or NACA (Bangkok, Thailand) from 1999 until 2001 and as a regular staff member until 2002. In late 2002, Melba moved to the USA to work at Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. Outside the Philippines, Melba extensively travelled to 23 countries in pursuit of scholarly and career goals on aquaculture and aquatic animal health management; and stayed/lived in various periods from 1987 to 2004 in 5 of them (Canada, Japan, Israel, Thailand and USA). She has authored and co-authored more than 50 scientific and technical publications and has close to 20 years of combined experience in research, training, diagnostics, extension, international aid and project development in aquatic animal health, and aquaculture (freshwater and mariculture).

Melba has been involved in several FAO projects in Asia and the Americas since 1997. She served as Regional Coordinator (1999-2002) of TCP/RAS 6714 (A) and 9065 (A) "Assistance for the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals" and served as consultant or resource expert to the following FAO projects: (a) UNDP Project VIE/98/009/01/NEX Aquaculture Development on Northern Uplands (2000); (b) FAO/CIFA/NACA Expert Consultation on the Intensification of Food Production in LIFDC's through Aquaculture (2001); (c) Nepal/FAO/NACA Symposium on Coldwater Fishes of the Trans-Himalayan Region (2001); (d) TCP/RLA/0071 "Assistance to health management of shrimp culture in Latin America" (2001, 2002); and (e) TCP/INS/2905 (A) - Health Management in Freshwater Aquaculture (2004). Melba's responsibility at FIRI includes development, implementation, review and evaluation of projects on aspects of aquaculture for rural development (including livelihood aspects, employment, income generation, gender and equity issues) and aquatic animal health management; editorial responsibilities for FAN and other duties as may be required. Her current assignment is on seed as a resource for aquaculture. She can be reached at Melba.Reantaso@fao.org; Room F514, ext. 54843.



Mr Mohammad R. Hasan



Mohammad R. Hasan joined FIRI in first week of October 2004 as Fisheries Resources Officer (Aquaculture). Prior to this new assignment, Mohamad (popularly known as Hasan) has been working at the Department of Aquaculture, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), in Mymensingh. Hasan

joins FAO with over 26 years of research experience in aquaculture and aquatic related science; particularly in freshwater aquaculture, fish nutrition and feed development and inland fisheries. His experience also includes over 17 years of post-doctoral research experience in the Asian region which resulted to more than 60 publications. Along with research skills,

Hasan brings to FAO experiences in technical cooperation, international affairs and development work and field experiences in training and extension. Hasan developed and implemented several research projects on fish nutrition, feed development, aquaculture and inland fisheries funded by national of Bangladesh and international funding agencies.

Hasan studied at the University of Stirling in Scotland from 1982-1986 with a Commonwealth Scholarship and obtained a Ph.D. degree in Aquaculture with specialization in fish nutrition. He completed his B.Sc. in Fisheries Science from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India in 1977 and a M.Sc. degree from BAU in 1980. Hasan started his career as Lecturer in 1980 in Fisheries Biology & Limnology in BAU and continued until 1982 when he left for Ph.D. studies. Hasan came back to Bangladesh in 1986 and joined the same department at BAU as Assistant Professor until 1994 after which he joined the Oxbow Lakes Small Scale Fishermen Project (jointly funded by IFAD and Danida) based at Jessore, Bangladesh as a National Consultant until 1997. In 1997, he rejoined BAU and continued until September 2004. During this period, Hasan worked as consultant for the GEF-funded Aquatic Resources Development, Management & Conversation Studies of the Fourth Fisheries Project, Department of Fisheries, and as short-term consultant for the DFID-funded fisheries project in Bangladesh.

Hasan travelled to 17 countries to attend international and regional meetings/workshops/consultancy; these included prolonged stays in India (4 years: 1973-74) and United Kingdom (4 years: 1982-86). Hasan has been involved in different FAO activities in Asia since 1997 attending several FAO expert consultations and FAO/NACA workshops, served as consultant, written global review and was a contributor to Aquaculture Glossary (2004).

Hasan's technical responsibilities in FIRI will focus largely on inland aquaculture, including aquatic animal nutrition and feeds and on technical backstopping to field projects through assistance in the identification, formulation and review of project activities on inland aquaculture, aquatic animal nutrition and feeds. Hasan can be reached at Mohammad.Hasan@fao.org, Room F518, ext.56442.