

AQUA-TNET3

Promoting innovation and a European dimension through Lifelong learning in the field of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management – Thematic Network

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<p style="text-align: center;">Deliverable Number: D6.9 <i>Student Forum at EAS conference 2012</i> <i>(Prague)</i></p>
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Workpackage(s) concerned: WP6

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Product/Report

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Dissemination level: Public

PU Public	
RE Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
CO Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Indicate any document related to this deliverable (report, website, ppt etc and give file name)*

- Report: can be found on page 4&5 of this document
- Website: www.eassg.org

SUMMARY

During the student forum at the Aquaculture Europe conference, organized each year, a dedicated program for students and young researchers will be given in order to expand their view on student-relevant trends and developments in the aquaculture sector. As in previous conferences, the session will be made up of several invited talks and an open forum. Participants will have the opportunity to get in touch with the presenters and each other. Outcomes of this event will be summarized in a report, made available online and a promotional article will be distributed to relevant channels (AquaTT TN, tnet newsletter, EAS newsletter, EAS-SG facebook) targeting students in the Aquatnet domain.

The conference in Prague was held together with the WAS which of course was a great opportunity for the student of the EAS and WAS to cooperate and organize a very interesting program for students during AQUA 2012.

Objectives:

- Give students information which can help them to expand their careers in the field of aquaculture.
- Emphasize the importance of networking during your studies and the rest of your career and the way how you should use your network.
- Help students who want to study/work abroad (especially in Europe) in the aquaculture sector by providing them with relevant information (AQUA-TNET).
- Transmission of communicational (language skills) and presentation skills which can be very useful in a scientific career.
- Highlight important issues when you are looking for a job and give CV tips.
- Encourage students to exchange information about what they have reached in their career already, so that they can help each.
- Increase friendship among aquaculture students during the workshop and conference.

Rationale:

- Specific presentations about the above described topics, by people from that specific field of interest and institutions.
- Opportunity for students to ask questions to the presenters and talk with them personally during or after the forum.
- Invitation for different social evenings during the conference.

Results:

- More than 80 very interested students from all over the world joined the workshop. Useful questions were asked and the invitation for the social evening resulted in 175 attendants.

Teams involved:

- EAS-SG
- WAS
- AQUA-TNET

- Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
- Aquaculture without Frontiers
- Novus International
- Alltech Young Scientist Award
- Auburn University
- Kentucky State University
- Aquaculture Research Center Department of Aquaculture & Fisheries
University of Arkansas
- Mississippi State University
- Agricultural Marketing & Product Promotion of the Kentucky Department of
Agriculture

Geographical areas covered:

- Europe
- USA
- Egypt
- Canada
- Japan
- Australie
- Thailand
- Russia
- Mexico

EXTENDED SUMMARY STUDENT WORKSHOP AQUA 2012

The student workshop organized by the WAS and EAS student groups for the Aqua2012 conference proved to be a huge success. The workshop was held on Sunday afternoon, 2nd of September. Introductions were made by Christopher Green, assistant professor at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and Benedikt Frenzl, PhD student at Stirling University. They introduced the AWF raffle the poster awards and the social evening for students. Three poster awards were extended at the end of the conference: the Best Student Poster awarded by WAS, the Lindsay Laird Award from Aquatt and the Ibrahim Okumus Award given by the EAS student group.

After the introduction there was a very interesting project by Novus International: the 2012 Novus WAS internship Challenge. They propose students to suggest an experiment which will test a technology aimed at providing alternatives for feed producers which can help reduce production costs through increased productivity, growth and/or feed conversion efficiencies while controlling or reducing feed cost. A proposal based on literature review that focuses on the mode of action behind the experimental hypothesis should be submitted by November 15, 2012. Proposals should be limited to two to three typewritten pages plus references. A one page CV of the candidate should also be attached to the proposal. Applicants must be enrolled in a University MSc or PhD program at the time of application. Selection of Novus intern will be announced at Aquaculture 2013, Nashville, TN. A digital photograph of the intern will be needed for the announcement. Following selection, the 4 week internship will be scheduled June-August 2013. The intern will work with The Novus Aquaculture Research team on a current project being carried out at the Novus Aqua Research Center, Vietnam. Vietnam is the 3rd largest aqua production country in the world. Our Novus Aqua Research Center is integrally connected to the aqua industry and allows the intern to learn about and experience aquaculture in Vietnam through interactions with the Novus research and operations teams. The award will include: travel to and from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, lodging in a University student dormitory in Vietnam during the internship and a per diem of \$1,000 to help defray living costs in Vietnam. Submit proposals to Lorraine Magney at Novus: Lorraine.magney@novusint.com

The first talk was given by Fabian Schäfer, who introduced Aquatnet. This project wants to provide new and better opportunities learning possibilities for students, providing them new teaching tools, as well as an academic and professional network. More information can be found on the website: <http://www.aquatnet.com/>. Following Fabian was Dr. Bill Daniels, from Auburn University, who gave some guidelines when going to a US institution for graduate schools: where to go and how to get there. His first advice was to keep your options open, apply to several institutions and use your or your professors' network! When writing your application letter, highlight your qualifications, mention major professors in the institute and show that you know the specifics of their work. However, the work for getting your place in a graduate school starts earlier: build your resume by working in labs or on farms, by conducting research, by publishing. Last but not least, pay attention to your personal skills and letters of recommendation! Funding possibilities can be found at the US State Department, more information can be found on: www.fullbrightonline.org. Charlie Shultz, PhD student at the Kentucky State University gave a talk on "Taking advantage of your student status". Many of us might not realize how lucky we are to be able to profit from access to online journals, articles and university services. Kentucky State University for example provides online education as well as online aquaculture classes to which everyone can subscribe. Student life also provides us also with a flexible schedule, access to state-of-the-art facilities, premier researchers and publication opportunities. So let's not forget to take advantage of this while we are students!! Dr. Rebecca Lochman from the Aquaculture Research Center Department of Aquaculture & Fisheries University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff talked to us about the power of publishing. It is the most effective way to increase your

competitiveness and to increase your opportunities for later. It all starts with your professor; he can tell you what kind of support is available and in which journal you best publish. The take home message was that publication takes effort but it's well worth it. However seek support from experienced colleagues and be persistent because publication marks you for success.

We have discussed some ways to improve our chances for the professional life after the student one. However what does it take to be viewed as a "professional"? This is what the talk of Dr. Jimmy Avery at Mississippi State University was about. Most employers are concerned with how you will fit in with their employees and how you will represent their company. So here are some tips! One of the most important ways in the professional world is communication. Therefore always express respect for the people with whom you are communicating, never interrupt, maintain eye contact, listen 80% and only speak 20% yourself! Always excuse yourself when you must leave a conversation, never just walk away. Some final remarks: be honest, strive to improve and respect your employer! How do you now prepare for interviewing for your dream job in aquaculture? Christopher Green gave us some tips. First of all, your resume or CV should be constantly updated: state some clear career objectives, as well as previous work and job titles. List your educational background and achievements (poster/oral) in chronological order. When you have interview over skype or telephone remember to speak clearly. They can ask technical or behavioral questions to see your logical problem solving or your reactions to certain problems or situations. When they ask for your strengths and weaknesses, always answer in respect to the job not in respect to your personal life. When mentioning a weakness it is good when you can show it's something you have improved upon already. Once you got your dream job, they will probably ask you to write grant proposals. As a student this might be something you never did before so Benedikt Frenzl introduced us to the basics of writing and receiving grants. Writing grant proposals is necessary for all scientific work however each proposal is specific to an organization or to the type of grant. The most important is to really sell your idea! This is done by showing your dedication to the field and by pursuing an excellent idea. Try to get to know the funding body and their requirements by asking your professor or colleagues. When writing the proposal, demonstrate that your program addresses the question differently or better than other projects supported by a well-defined experimental plan.

Most speakers mentioned the importance of networking and therefore we asked Angela Caporelli from the office for Agricultural Marketing & Product Promotion of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, to give a talk about how to build your network and how to use it for the good. Networking is important for several reasons, it gives you information about the hidden job market, provides you a variety of perspectives on your field but most importantly it provides you help when you need it. Expand your network at every opportunity! When approaching new people you'll probably have to step out of your comfort zone, just remember to always be positive, always be sincere and always be willing to help others. The summary of Angela Caporelli's talk is at the same time the summary of the entire student session: be inventive, be proactive and keep building your network!