The outlook for the Asian Pacific Chapter for the second half of 2015 is good but not without challenges. Upcoming events for the chapter have a lot to offer, including ICFA 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 25-27 August, the Middle East and Central Asia Aquaculture Forum 2015 in Tehran, Iran, and Asia Pacific Aquaculture 2016 in Surabaya, Indonesia. Everything is well prepared according to the determined schedule. The joint APC and AIT workshop on shrimp farming in Bangkok has been postponed to January 2016. We have new board members joining as follows: Mr. Roy Palmer (Immediate Past President), Mr. Allen Wu (Director), Dr. Felix Suga (Director) and Ms. Katherine Hawes, who started June 1, 2015 as Secretary-Treasurer.

Global shrimp production is improving as countries hard-hit by early mortality syndrome (EMS) recover and as Ecuador, Vietnam and Indonesia boost output. There has been moderate recovery in farmed shrimp production in Thailand and also in Mexico, while India, Vietnam and Indonesia continue to focus more on Pacific white shrimp aquaculture. In the past seven months, the production of P. monodon in Vietnam has increased about 4.5 percent, but production of L. vannamei has dropped about 23 percent compared with the same period last year. However, overall production is expected to be better in 2015 compared with 2014. Harvests in India could be lower than projected due to disease incidence.

Market demand for shrimp in the U.S. remains sluggish. I anticipate flat to softening prices in the U.S. towards the end of the year as restaurants return shrimp to their menus. Meanwhile, the weakening of the euro is likely to reduce imports to the EU in the coming months. Japanese importers are also likely to be selective due to the weak yen. While prices for small shrimp may drop, the prices for larger sizes will remain more stable as harvests of small shrimp in Mexico, India, Indonesia and Thailand keeps the market tighter for larger sizes.

While the way to combat EMS is still in doubt, farmers are facing other diseases such as running mortality syndrome (RMS) in India and white spot disease and white feces. Last, fish production is promising as a global sustainable food source, but recent climate change has adversely affected production, especially from mariculture.

― Farshad Shishehchian, President

Latin American and Caribbean Chapter

After Writing this report gives me great pleasure, as usual, but also causes a little melancholy because it is the last one I write as President of the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society (LACC-WAS). During my nearly 20-year career (and many more years to come, hopefully), I have performed different jobs in aquaculture: extension agent, professor, consultant, farmer and recently public servant. All these years have had only one constant: I have been an active member of WAS. The Society has given me the opportunity to interact with many specialists, but more than anything, to make good friends that share the love of aquaculture. Aquaculturists in general have the trademark of being very passionate and maybe a little bit crazy. However, regardless of nationality or language we can easily communicate with each other. WAS has been a place where I have always felt home and where people that have very similar dreams to my own gather in extremely beautiful places all over the world.

When I was candidate for the LACC presidency, I ran against one of my best friends and a renowned professional. I did not have much hope, but the membership supported me with their vote and gave me the responsibility to lead and put my personal touch on the chapter from what is going to become the most important aquaculture area in the world, at least as I envision the future.

The first objective was to create a trademark congress that could integrate the region and all its participants. We had to differentiate ourselves from other regions and integrate academia, producers and government agencies. LACQUA was conceptualized with the support of John Cooksey, Mario Stael and the LACC Board of Directors. Our own conference in our own language (Spanish or Portuguese and a special room in English) so the producers could make the most of it and attend the meeting that previously was of no interest to them. LACQUA 13 took place in Villavicencio, Colombia and it was a big success. In Villavicencio, we tried to integrate Colombian producers by giving e-memberships to all participants. The number of members increased significantly, although the renewal rate has been quite low. Nonetheless, I think it was a good try. During 2013, LACC was considered as a permanent advisor for the Aquaculture Network of the Americas (Red de Acuicultura de las Americas, RAA) where it has a voice in meetings, a major step to connect the dots between all members of regional aquaculture.

In 2014, LACQUA took place in Guadalajara, México, and again participants were very pleased with the quality of the talks and the event in general. Two major milestones were achieved in the land of mariachi and tequila. The first was that the LACC-WAS office was for the first time operated with an Executive Officer located in the region (Nash Rodríguez). The second was that a rotation system was established for LACQUA where every three years the event would take place in Mexico and every three years in Brazil, leaving a third spot every three years for different

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In Jeju Island, three outstanding WAS members were recognized for their significant contributions to aquaculture. Yoram Avnimelech and Abdel-Fattah El-Sayed received Honorary Life Memberships. This award honors significant career-long services to aquaculture. Jeong-Yeol Lee was recognized as a WAS Fellow. This award recognizes career achievements in aquaculture, as well as extensive service to WAS.

Yoram Avnimelech is a Professor Emeritus at Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. He was a chief scientist of the Israeli Ministry of the Environment. His work has focused on soil science, physical chemistry, and watershed management. Yoram is probably known best for his pioneering work in biofloc technologies for intensive aquaculture systems. This technology was widely adopted by industry, leading to improved environmental sustainability of intensive systems. He has published several versions of his book “Biotech Technology: a Practical Handbook.” They have all sold out. He is a long-term WAS member and former WAS Director on the Board, where he was a very active Chair of the Promotion and Membership Committee. His work initiated a sustained effort to engage new WAS members from under-represented countries such as India and China.

Abdel-Fattah El-Sayed is a Professor at Alexandria University in Egypt. He has specialized in fish nutrition research and development for 35 years. He has done extensive work with tilapias, one of the most important groups of foodfish worldwide, and produced a book titled “Tilapia Culture.” His academic work has led to widespread practical and commercial impacts, and he is considered one of the top ten scientists in his field. El-Sayed has also made significant contributions to the development of aquaculture in Egypt, in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East through feed development and production systems for use in arid regions. His ultimate goal is to help aquaculture students, researchers, and producers, particularly in developing countries. El-Sayed has been a frequent consultant for FAO and is also a long-term WAS member.

Jeong-Yeol Lee is a Professor at Kunsan National University in Korea, and the current Director of the Fish and Fish Culture Research Station. He is also the former Dean of the College of Marine Industrial Technology. His work on the development and implementation of marine aquaculture technologies is considered a high-impact model of research-based Extension in Korea. Lee has mentored more than 20 M.Sc. and Ph.D. students who have assumed important roles in the public and private sectors. He has been very active in professional associations, serving as the President of the Korean Aquaculture Society and the Korean Chapter of WAS. Lee has been a WAS member for 25 years, and had major organizational roles in WAS 2008 in Busan and WAS 2015 in Jeju.

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countries in the region. This would assure that LACQUA could become economically feasible and still operate in alternative venues periodically.

Following this arrangement, LACQUA will take place in the Convention Center of Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, during November 16-19, in coordination with FENACAM 2015. Fortaleza is a place in a country of unmatchable beauty and potential. I know we are all conscious that Brazil is destined to greatness and that it is just a matter of time before it becomes a top-tier economy. I am sure that aquaculture will develop widely because water, land, weather, infrastructure and resources are all available in almost optimal quantities and/or quality. In this meeting we will all be able to see these foundations.

I would like to say that we did not fail in anything, but we continue to fall short in really attracting the membership we should. During this meeting the Board will change and Lorenzo Juarez, will become President of LACC for a two-year term. I will become the Immediate Past President and a new President-Elect, Treasurer and a Director will also join the Board. Do not hesitate to get to know them and enrich our project. I encourage all of you to think of how you can improve LACC and participate.

Thank you all for this journey, thank you for giving me the opportunity to do what I love. I am not sure what will happen in the next couple of years but the only thing I can say is that I will keep following my heart and still be involved in aquaculture. I hope I can contribute a little bit to make this a better world but whatever happens, I will be around. See you in WAS.

— Antonio Garza de Yta, President