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Editorial

This second issue of *Aquarium Sciences and Conservation* carries a selection of papers which were presented at the recent *Aquarama* conference held in Singapore, 22–24 May 1997. *Aquarama* is an international trade exhibition and conference which is devoted to aquarium fish and accessories. Singapore is a major supplier of fishes for the international aquarium industry and is therefore ideally placed to host this event which takes place on alternate years. (We propose to publish advanced information on the 1999 *Aquarama* in a future issue of this journal).

The papers published here address some of the technical and environmental considerations of a live fish trade which depends partly on aquaculture and partly on fisheries. The effects of the ornamental fish industry on certain wild fish populations and the move towards economically and ecologically sustainable fishery methods are discussed by Ng and Tan in relation to South East Asia, and in the paper by Chao and Prang which focusses on Project Piaba in Manaus, Brazil.

In the case of freshwater fishes several of the more popular aquarium species are nowadays commercially farmed rather than being wild caught. Many of the procedures employed in foodfish aquaculture are finding application to intensive ornamental fish production. Two of the papers published here deal with such applications, one in relation to the use of live foods in larviculture, the other concerning sex reversal technology.

The dragon fish (*Scleropages formosus*: Osteoglossidae) is a high-value ornamental species which is highly endangered in the wild. Being listed under Appendix I of CITES this species can only legally be obtained for the aquarium trade from captive bred stocks. The long-term *ex-situ* management of this species is therefore of both economic and ecological importance. The application of DNA fingerprinting techniques to assess genetic variability of captive populations of *S. formosus* is described in the paper by Fernando and co-workers.

With regard to marine aquarium fishes, the overwhelming majority are wild-caught with only a few being commercially farmed at present in order to supply the aquarium trade. The captive spawning and rearing of tropical marine fishes remains one of the great challenges to the aquarist and much more research is required. Captive breeding successes have been achieved with a few marine species, including seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp). The paper by Lockyear and colleagues provides valuable information on the reproduction of one seahorse species, *H. capensis*, under aquarium conditions.

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My thanks also to Dr Audrey Fernando, Singapore Polytechnic, who is guest editor for this special issue, and to Adeline Leong at Miller Freeman, Singapore (the conference organisers) who ensured that the manuscripts reached the editorial office in good time. Last but not least, my thanks to Melanie Hall at Chapman and Hall in London for all her enthusiastic help.

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Editor