



(l-r) IMA Director Dr. Amoy Lum Kong gives remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the IMA's 12th Research Symposium; Beverly Foster, Chief Information Officer, IMA; The Honourable Ramona Ramdial, Minister in the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources and Professor Indar Ramnarine, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IMA

MANAGING COASTAL RESOURCES

The IMA held its 12th Research Symposium 'Managing Coastal Resources' from 26-27 September 2012 at the Crowne Plaza, Port of Spain. This theme was chosen to highlight IMA's past, present and future role in coastal and marine area management, especially as Trinidad and Tobago moves towards developing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Policy, Framework, Strategies and Action plan. Minister in the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, the Honourable Ramona Ramdial in the feature address highlighted the need to balance growth with a green footprint. Minister Ramdial indicated "We will be concentrating our efforts on the 'green' economy and encouraging a participative stakeholder approach to our policies".

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BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Wanti Chadee

Ms. Chadee recently joined the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts where she holds the position of Capital Programme Analyst. Previously, she was employed as a Programme Manager in charge of the Public Sector Investment Programme at the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training. Governor Chadee has over 15 years experience in the field of project management. In undertaking her responsibilities for managing projects in the public sector, she has and will continue to ensure that projects are managed in accordance with approved procedures and policies and that there is transparency, accountability and value for money spent for every project implemented.

Ms. Chadee intends to use her experience in Public Sector Project Management to improve the rate of success of IMA's capital projects, and more importantly, to ensure that the processes and procedures used are in accordance with best practice and good governance.

Governor Chadee has a B.Sc. General Sciences degree, an M.Sc. in Project Management with distinction, and an advanced certificate in Process Management.

NEW STAFF

Sherron Barker

Mr. Barker first began working at the IMA as a laboratory assistant (intern) in 2009 in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Programme. He previously interned at the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory, Ocho Rios, Jamaica where he assisted with coral reef monitoring and invasive species control projects. After completing his B.Sc. in Marine Biology (minor in Zoology) at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, he returned to the IMA. He is an On-the-Job-Trainee assigned to the Environmental Research Programme where his current focus is reef fish assessment for Tobago.



Beverly Foster

Ms. Foster joined the IMA as the Chief Information Officer on 2 August, 2012. She has over 15 years experience in the marketing and communications field, gained through her experience both in the private and public sectors. She has a B.A. in Psychobiology obtained from New York University, an M.Sc. in Marketing from the University of Salford, U.K. and is currently pursuing an online DBA with the University of Phoenix. Ms. Foster looks forward to working with the various internal and external stakeholders of the IMA in the quest to promote understanding and appreciation of the marine and related environment.

Kaleem Khan

Mr. Khan joined the IMA as the Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Officer at the beginning of July 2012. He is responsible for making the IMA OSH compliant, formulating and implementing safety management systems and risk management. Mr. Khan was the HSE Manager for the Ministry of Legal Affairs. He has a B.Sc. in Environmental Science from the University of the West Indies, an M.Sc. in Occupational Safety and Health from the University of Greenwich (UK) and is currently pursuing a General MBA from the Australian Institute of Business. He is certified by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health and has training in defensive driving, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation.



LIONFISH WORKSHOPS IN TOBAGO

Over the period 11-13 September 2012, the IMA in collaboration with the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) hosted Lionfish Capture and Handling workshops in Tobago at Castara, Charlotteville and Buccoo. The sessions were conducted by IMA's Coral reef researcher Jahson Alemu I who was ably assisted by other IMA staff, Addison Titus, Jonathan Gomez, Beverly Foster, Dr. Ann Marie Jobity and Dr. Amoy Lum Kong. Esther Tobias, THA representative and Dr. Amoy Lum Kong, IMA Director welcomed and wished participants a successful workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to educate fishermen, marine resource officers, divers and other marine enthusiasts on the Lionfish invasion. These workshops included: background of the invasion, biology/ecology of Lionfish, impacts, current research findings, collecting tools and techniques, market development, and community involvement.

On the first day, Lionfish posters were presented to the THA for distribution to stakeholders. The highlight of the demonstration session which followed the poster distribution was the use of the pole spear to capture Lionfish. For this session, 2-litre plastic bottles were filled with water and participants were shown how to spear the bottles. Pole spears are special equipment which may be used to capture the Lionfish. The use of spear guns is discouraged because it can harm reef structures and other reef organisms if the intended target is missed. Training sessions were held in the water at Castara. On the last day, at Charlotteville, newly-acquired pole spears were presented to the THA for distribution to dive shops and fisherfolk associations to assist with capturing Lionfish.



Jahson Alemu I gives an overview of the Lionfish invasion at the training session at the Buccoo Community Centre



A participant attempts the use of a pole spear in the session at Castara



THA representative, Esther Tobias-Clarke tries her hand at the pole spear



Lionfish poster created for the public awareness campaign

IMA HOSTS 12th RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 'MANAGING COASTAL RESOURCES'

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The Symposium is our major information-sharing event, which serves primarily to highlight IMA's research to our stakeholders. It affords an opportunity for our researchers to obtain feedback on their research - its quality, relevance and significance. In so doing, it is also hoped that this Symposium would serve as a catalyst to guide future research for the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago, and indeed the Caribbean.



Wendy Nelson presents on Heavy metals in the Caura/Tacarigua watershed



Rosemarie Kishore presents research on the Wahoo



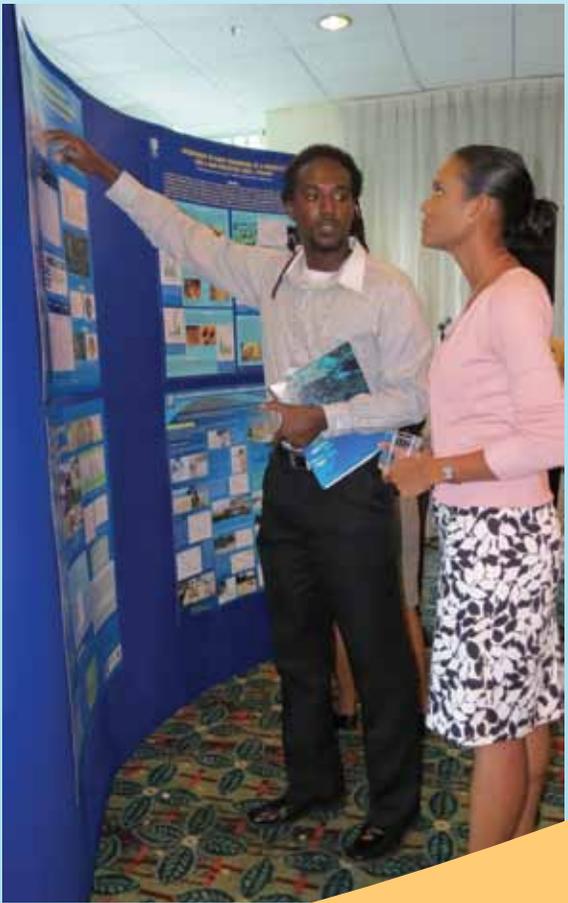
Paul Gabbadon speaks about Re-circulating aquaculture systems



Dr. Rikhi Permanand of the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Economic Board member, poses a question to the presenter on food security



Attentive audience



Jahson Alemu I discusses his poster

This year's 2-day Symposium included verbal and poster presentations, as well as a panel discussion on 'Challenges in Developing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework for Trinidad and Tobago'. The first day of the Symposium was dedicated to ICZM which has been identified as the best approach globally for the management of coastal resources. The second day covered Environmental Quality and Fisheries and Aquaculture Research. Director of the IMA, Dr. Amoy Lum Kong stressed the importance of coastal resources to the lives and well being of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago in her remarks at the Opening Ceremony. Participants at the Symposium included representatives from environmental NGOs, UWI, the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, and Ministry of Food Production.

Posters highlighting IMA's research were on display. Some of the key issues covered in the posters included: mitigation of coastal erosion, use of unmanned aerial vehicle technology for coral and seagrass monitoring, oil spill finger-printing, and marine invasive alien species in Trinidad and Tobago.



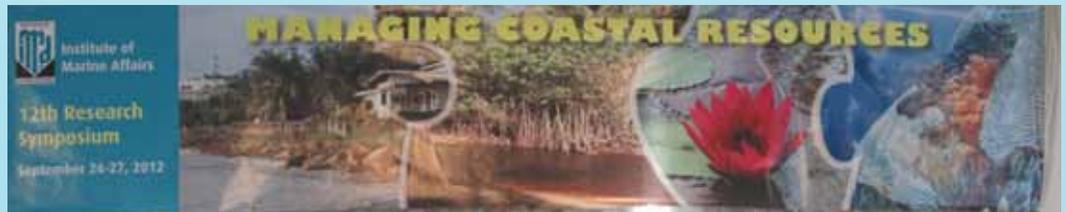
Adam Jehu giving his presentation on Coastal change detection of Trinidad and Tobago



Candace Leung Chee discusses her poster with the Honourable Ramona Ramdial and Professor Indar Ramnarine



Dr. Ann Marie Jobity presents her research on Bycatch in the artisanal fishery



Dr. Avril Siung Chang offers suggestions



Panellists for the discussion on 'Challenges in Developing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework' (l-r) Dr. Rahanna Juman (IMA), Dr. Asad Mohammed (UWI), Marc Rudder (Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs); Dr. Ellis Burris (THA) and Louis Guy (COPE)

TILAPIA COOK OFF 2012

The IMA hosted its first 'Tilapia Cook off' on 30 August 2012. In this competition, different preparation methods were explored. The dishes included Cheesy tilapia (IC Can Cook); Herb-crusted tilapia with a dill sauce (Trini with a Twist); Coconut curried tilapia (Tilaqua); Beer-battered, deep-fried tilapia with an assortment of local sauces including sorrel sauce (Team Jubilee); Coconut-crusted tilapia with pineapple, tamarind curry sauce and pineapple salsa (Leh Wee Cook Krew) and Pewah-stuffed tilapia (Local Flavaaz). The winning dish from The Captain's Crew was a Coconut crusted tilapia with curry coconut drizzle served over a cassava boat with hot mango salsa and cool cucumber raita in pineapple yoghurt with mint. At the end, teams were judged on originality, taste and presentation. Tilapia was sourced from IMA's very own intensive aquaculture tanks.



The winning dish

The members of the winning team 'The Captain's Crew' with their trophy



Leh Wee Cook Krew Best Taste Winner



Team Jubilee 'fires-up' for the judges People's Choice Winner



Trini With A Twist



IC Can Cook - Originality Winner



Tilaqua doing finishing touches to their presentation



Local Flavaaz

IMA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Regional Dialogue in Dominican Republic



Dr. Rahanna Juman (sixth from left) with participants

Dr. Rahanna Juman, Senior Research Officer-ERP participated in a Regional Dialogue hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) entitled ‘**How to Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation into a Country’s Priority Sectors of Action**’. The discussion was held from 20-21 September 2012 at Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. A major focus of the regional dialogue was discussion of a technical paper entitled ‘**Mainstreaming Climate Changes into Development Planning in the Caribbean**’.

History Lecture at the IMA



IMA staff enjoying the informative session

Historian Gerard Besson

The IMA celebrated Trinidad and Tobago’s 50th Year of Independence by hosting a lecture entitled ‘Trinidad and Tobago’s Journey to Independence’ on 29 August 2012. Historian Gerard Besson was the guest speaker. Mr. Besson, who is a former director of the National Museum, is a historian for more than 20 years and a recipient of the Hummingbird Medal (Gold) of the Order of the Trinity for Heritage Preservation and Promotion. He took staff through an extensive journey from the first persons to colonise our twin islands, to the background of Trinidad and Tobago’s first Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, to Independence.

Protecting our Coast

The IMA and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Steering Committee of Trinidad and Tobago held a workshop entitled ‘The role of the media in ICZM’. The workshop was held on 21 August 2012 at the Eric Williams Financial Complex. Dr. Rahanna Juman, Chair of the ICZM Steering Committee, and Dr. Floyd Homer, Deputy Chair of the ICZM Committee were the presenters. Attendees included members of the media and representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Tobago House of Assembly and the Environmental Management Authority, among others.

Dr. Floyd Homer discusses the importance of social media in information sharing



Participants engrossed in the presentation on the role of the media in promoting ICZM



IMA/UNEP ProEcoServ Project



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)- Government of Norway, ProEcoServ seeks to address the medium-term development strategy of UNEP by utilizing the Ecosystem Management Approach to enhance human well-being by protecting and conserving the functioning and resilience of ecosystems. The IMA has been executing the project on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

One of the outcomes of the project has been the erection of signage in Caura Village, aimed at creating greater public awareness of a more sustainable and integrated approach to managing our ecosystem resources. This activity was a component of the 'Ecosystem Management for the Integrated Land-and Seascape of Northern Trinidad'.

One of the signs recently erected in the Caura Valley in support of the ProEcoServ project

THE BLUE CORNER

To put your hands in a river is to feel the chords that bind the earth together.

Barry Lopez

Mudskipper *Periophthalmus barbarus*
The fish that walked on land



- Mudskippers can be found in the mud flats of mangrove forest. These fish spend most of their time out of water. They walk, eat and court on land.
- They are the only fish that do all these things on land instead of in water.
- Mudskippers carry water in their large gill chambers; humans use the opposite technique through scuba gear. Humans carry air to breathe in the water while the Mudskipper carries water to breathe in the air.

Since their eyes stick out on top of their head, they act like a periscope on a submarine. These creatures have a field of vision which is made even better because each eye can move independently. While on land, if their eyes become dry, they can roll them back into water-filled skin-folds that re-moisten them. One other thing Mudskippers do on land is fight as they are very territorial. When a Mudskipper shows its fins, that usually means it is preparing to defend its territory!

Sources: <http://mudskippers.org/>
<http://www.itsnature.org/sea/fish/mudskipper/>

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