

Asian Fisheries Awards (AFS) Award

No.	Award category	Nominee	Rationale for nomination
1	Honorary Member Award (2022)	Dr.Joykrushna Jena	Dr J.K. Jena has 30 years of experience in research on freshwater aquaculture and conservation genetics, and has been a Deputy Director General at ICAR, since 2016. He has published over 200 research papers in national and international journals, several books and other publications. Jena has contributed to the development of several technologies that have had direct impact on Indian fish production that have had led to increased yield from aquaculture. He has been involved in many major research projects and operates the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) in India with the involvement of 27 partner organizations. His contributions have been recognized with several awards and fellowships including the prestigious Fellowship of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India. He has held important positions in the Asian Fisheries Society including serving as a Councillor, President and Immediate Past President of the and Chairman of the extensive AFS Indian Branch. This has provided a very important connection for planning the 14th AFAF 2025.
		Dr.Rohana P. Subasinghe	Rohana Subasinghe has over 40 years of experience and deep understanding of global fisheries and aquaculture issues, food security, and agricultural development. His career includes 21 years at FAO and 15 years as a university teacher and an international/regional project manager in fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic animal health management. In collaboration with others, Rohana has been responsible for establishing the FAO's

			<p>Intergovernmental Committee on Aquaculture (COFI-SCA) and assembling the first ever Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting on Aquaculture, bringing seventeen Asian countries together. This resulted in the Colombo Declaration – an Asia Regional Ministerial Declaration on Aquaculture Cooperation, in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2011. He is a member of the Asian Fisheries Society and a pioneering member and Chairperson of the Fish Health Section of the Asian Fisheries Society. He is also a member of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) and former President of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of of WAS. In July 2017, he was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the WAS. Since his retirement from FAO in 2016, he has continued to provide his experience and knowledge on aquaculture to several international development agencies and organizations.</p>
2.	Gold Medal Award	<p>Prof. Han Ching Wang (past Vice-President of AFS, organiser of hybrid/virtual 13AFAF in Taiwan)</p>	<p>Significant contributions to AFS as Vice-President of the 13th Council, and lead organiser of the 13th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum – the first hybrid AFAP held, and the first AFAP held during a global pandemic. Her leadership and energy have been significant in contributing to the Asian Fisheries Society, maintaining its networks and enhancing its reputation to members.</p>
		<p>Prof. Liping Liu (CAA7, Vice-President, incoming President, contribution to engaging participation of China in 14AFAP)</p>	<p>Prof. Liping is being nominated for a Gold Award from the Asian Fisheries Society because of his significant contributions to AFS as a Councillor, in leading the organisation of the 7th Cage Aquaculture in Asia (CAA7) with SHOU, Hainan University and AFS, providing significant input to 14AFAP through developing a Special Session on Aquaculture and lastly, through agreeing to be the Incoming President</p>

			of the AFS 15 th Council (2025-2028). Prof. Liping has also renewed the connection between AFS and our Viet Nam members, resulting in Viet Nam agreeing to host CAA8 in 2026.
3.	Merit Award	Dr. Kua Beng Chu (Fish Health Chair)	Dr. Kua Beng Chu has made significant contributions to AFS as Chair of the Fish Health Section and organising major symposia on disease and fish health in Asia. The leadership by Dr. Kua and the opportunities she has provided for section members to engage and interact through different mechanisms is invaluable for enhancing the reputation of the Asian Fisheries Society and its value to members.
		Dr. Nikita Gopal (GAFS Chair)	Dr. Nikita Gopal has made significant contributions to AFS as Chair of the Gender and Aquaculture Fisheries Section and to the Executive of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network (AFSSRN). She is the incoming Chair of the AFSSRN. The leadership she has provided and opportunities for your network members to engage and interact through different mechanisms is invaluable for enhancing the reputation of the Asian Fisheries Society and its value to members.
		Dr. Sanjoy Banerjee (Assistant and Associate Editor, AFS)	Dr. Sanjoy Banerjee has made significant contributions as Assistant Editor and as an Associate Editor of the journal Asian Fisheries Science, the journal of AFS. His attention to detail and the quality of manuscripts published in Asian Fisheries Science has helped the journal gain Scopus accreditation and seen it increase in citation score and quality.
		Prof. Marieta Sumagaysay (AFSSRN Chair)	Prof. Marieta Sumagaysay has made significant contributions as Chair of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network (AFSSRN). Prof. Marieta's leadership has provided opportunities for members of the AFSSRN to engage and interact through different mechanisms. This is invaluable for enhancing the reputation of the Asian Fisheries

			<p>Society and its value to members. The webinar series initiated by the AFSSRN provided a model for the whole of AFS and the impetus to initiate a webinar series for all members in August 2024. She has encouraged the students and early career researchers to be involved in AFS.</p>
		<p>Dr. Nur Leena Wong Wai Sin (Treasurer, Councillor)</p>	<p>Dr. Nur Leena Wong Wai Sin has made significant contributions as Treasurer of AFS during very difficult times and her recent contribution to the Journal of Asian Fisheries Science as an Associate Editor and the Editorial Board. In her role as Treasurer, she has provided detailed summaries of the financial position to Council and the Executive Committee of AFS. She has also provided advice on the investment holdings of the Society for our future well-being.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Certificate of Appreciation</p>	<p>Dr. Clara Obregon (Students and ECRS facilitator)</p>	<p>Dr. Clara Obregon and Mr. Carlos Vergel are co-coordinators of the Students and Early Career Researchers' Group, initiated in January 2024. This certificate recognizes their commitment to the development of the group in AFS through initiating and coordinating meetings. Eleven virtual meetings have been held for the young researcher's group in 2024 and presentations by young researchers have been made on different topics. More than 40 young researchers have taken part in the meetings that have informed them of the Asian Fisheries Society. Clara and Carlos have also provided feedback from the group to the President and Council on how AFS can enhance its profile and value for young researchers. This group has provided an important bridge and connection between young researchers and AFS.</p>
		<p>Mr. Carlos Vergerl (Students and ECRS facilitator)</p>	<p>With Dr. Clara Obregon, co-coordinator of the Students and Early Career Researchers' Group (see above citation).</p>

		Dr. DongDong Zhang (CAA7, 65 th Council meeting, local organisation)	Contribution to the logistics and smooth running of CAA7 and the 65 th AFS Council meeting in Haiko, Hainan, China in December 2023. Providing opportunities for Councillors to engage with participants in CAA7 and to see aquaculture facilities in Hainan. These varied activities ran very smoothly due to her dedication and excellent planning and communication.
		Prof. Indah Susilowati	Encouragement of students and ECRs to engage in the Asian Fisheries Society. Supporting all meetings of this group and encouraging her research and undergraduate students to participate in the group and AFS conferences.
		Prof. Jin Long Yang	For his contributions as a Councillor for the 13 th and 14 th Council of the Asian Fisheries Society (2019 - 2024).
		Prof. Hong Thih Lai	For his contributions as a Councillor for the 13 and 14 th Council of the Asian Fisheries Society (2019 - 2024).
		Dr. Ravishankar C.N.	For his contributions as a Councillor for the 14 th Council of the Asian Fisheries Society (2022 - 2024).
5	Kanazawa Research Fellowship	Ms. Ipsita Biswas	Indian national at National Taiwan Ocean University, for her PhD research on moonfish to integrate science, conservation, and community resilience;

		Mr. Shafiq Johar	Malaysian National at the Universiti Putra Malaysia, for his PhD research on the development of potential bacteria as probiotics for disease control in juvenile catfish.
6	Kananazawa Commendations	Ms. Tran Nguyen	Viet Nam national at James Cook University, for her PhD research on groupers immune responses to NNV infection.

		Mr. Md. Ruyel Miah	Bangladeshi national at the University of Waterloo for his PhD research on small-scale fisheries vulnerability to viability transition; analysing transboundary governance.
7	Yang Yi Young Scientist Fellowship	Dr. Xiaoting Zheng	Dr. Xiaoting Zheng holds a Ph.D. in Aquaculture from Ghent University, Belgium, and serves as the academic leader of the innovation team on "Disease and Ecological Prevention and Control of Key Aquaculture Species in the South China Sea" at the South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences. Her research focuses on exploring green and healthy aquaculture models, immune response mechanisms in aquatic animals under stress, and gut health regulation using plant-derived extracts. She has authored 25 academic papers, including 20 SCI-indexed articles, with 9 as the first author and 6 published in JCR Q1 journals.
		Dr. Jaynos R. Cortes	Jaynos R. Cortes is a faculty member in the Department of Fisheries, College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at Northeastern Mindanao State University Lianga Campus, Philippines. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management at the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. As part of his doctoral research, Jaynos is investigating the hierarchical behaviour of an all- male Giant Freshwater Prawn using dietary supplementation, aiming to mitigate the aggressive behavior exhibited by different

			<p>morphotypes of the prawn. Aside from his Ph.D. research, he is actively involved in studies on nutritional physiology using phyto-genic feed additives in shrimp and fish. A neophyte researcher in this field, Jaynos is diligently publishing academic articles to contribute to the expanding body of knowledge in aquaculture and fisheries. Additionally, he serves as an editorial board member and academic reviewer for several reputable Scopus-indexed journals in the field, further cementing his role in advancing research and innovation in aquaculture and fisheries sciences.</p>
8	Yang Yi Honourable Mentions	Dr. Jingwei Liu	Lecturer, Shanghai Ocean University, China
		Dr. Lidiya Wilwet	Post-doctoral Fellow, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin, India.
		Dr. San Htet San	Demonstrator, University of Yangon, Myanmar.
		Dr. Santhana Kumar V.	Scientist, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Kolkata, India.
9	Sponsor	Dr. Jena will update at the end of January 2025	
10	Partners	Dr. Jena will update at the end of January 2025	
11	Supporters	Dr. Jena will update at the end of January 2025	

Nominations of the Honorary members (2025)

1.	Honorary	Prof. Alice Joan Ferrer	<p>Significant and varied contributions to the leadership to AFS as Vice-President of the 12th Council, President of the 13th Council, past Chair of the AFSSRN, member of the Executive of GAFS and coordinator and leader of webinars for AFSSRN and the AFS. In addition, Prof. Alice was the lead organiser for the 12th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum in the Philippines in 2019. Her leadership as President was particularly important because her term took the Society through COVID and kept it relevant and in the minds of members and people outside the Society with interests in global aquaculture and fisheries. These many varied and very significant contributions to the Asian Fisheries Society, and its Sections, Networks and conferences, have enhanced the reputation of AFS and taken AFS into a new era.</p>
2		Prof. HE Jianguo	<p>Professor, doctoral supervisor and director of the State Key Laboratory of Biocontrol at Sun Yat-sen University, director of the China- ASEAN "Belt and Road" Joint Laboratory of Mariculture Technology, and chief scientist of the CARS-Shrimp and Crab. He is mainly engaged in the research of disease control theory and key technologies for aquatic animals of economic importance, the breeding of shrimp for improved variety, and shrimp farming technology. He is mainly engaged in the research of aquatic economic animal disease control theory and key technology, shrimp breeding, shrimp breeding technology, etc. He has presided over more than 60 scientific research projects of national and provincial ministries and commissions, such as the National Science and Technology Support Program, the National "863" Program, the National Key Basic Research and Development Program (973 Program), the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and the National Key R&D Program.</p>

3		<p>Prof. Dato. Dr. Mohamed Shariff Mohamed Din <i>FASc</i>, <i>MCVS</i></p>	<p>Prof. Dr. Mohamed Sharrif served on Council for 9 years from 1992 until 2001 (AFS Councils 4 to 6), including the last term as President of AFS during the 5th Council (1995-1998) term— In December 2010 he was appointed as Editor-in-Chief of the journal for the Society, Asian Fisheries Science, and he completed 13 years of exemplary service as Editor, only retiring from the role in September 2023. During his time as Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Shariff was dedicated to improving the quality and profile of the journal and was successful in having the journal Scopus listed in 2017. Without his dedication, commitment and persistence, the journal may not have continued and would not have gained Scopus listing.</p>
---	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Remarks: During the General Assembly, these three nominees will be officially recognized as Honorary Members. During 15AFAF, the prizes will be presented.